

October 2022

ALA TODAY

Department of Illinois



Kathy Daudistel, 2022 National President



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**Jill Layton, Historian;
Patti Williamson 2022
Department President;
Renee Mathews,
Managing Director**



A MESSAGE FROM DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT JANET BACON



Welcome to Fall! There is so much happening this time of year. I hope that Units are getting back to meeting once a month or whenever possible. As you know, my goal for this year is to get back to basics. Our Fall Forums are underway. Unit Presidents have benefitted from attending a Fall Forum. If you have not attended a Fall Forum, there is still time. Remember that the Fall Forums are for every members benefit. There is a lot of free information for you to take back to your Units. It is also a great time to share ideas. There are also some surprises during the Forum. So, I hope to see many of you at a Forum in your Division.

Illinois was represented very well at the National Convention that was held in Milwaukee Wisconsin. National President Kathy Daudistel was a fantastic hostess. Did you know she rode her motorcycle in the Legacy Run? Her motorcycle does not have a front wind shield! I had the honor of meeting up with her on their stop in Belvidere, Illinois. The weather at National Convention was great except for a rainstorm that dampened the Oktoberfest event, but not the spirit of the American Legion Family. We attended the Constitution & Bylaws Committee meeting where our very own Pam Ray was the Chairman and she did an excellent job of making sure the meeting ran smoothly and things were explained. There were 22 proposed amendments to the National American Legion Auxiliary's Constitution & Bylaws. These were discussed in length during the Illinois Caucus and then voted on during the Tuesday session by our delegates. The most controversial amendment was the dues increase of \$6.00. National dues will go from \$12 up to \$18. This does not take affect until next year for the 2024 membership year. Please be sure this is discussed at your unit meetings and that your Constitution & Bylaws reflect the increase.

The Department of Illinois was mentioned for reporting 104 scholarships to National. It was great to look up on the screen and see several familiar faces from Illinois. That would have been National Treasurer Marybeth Revoir, National Finance Chairman and PNP Sharon Conatser and National Constitution & Bylaws Chairman Pam Ray. There were other member's pictures on the screen throughout the convention.

There was another proud moment when Illinois was recognized for the award won by Liberty Unit #289 of Strasburg. They won first place in the Central Division for their Education Report as well as first place in the Central Division for their VA&R report. Strasburg was one of eleven units that won the National President's Unit Award of Excellence. All they did was submit a report. Just think if all our Units did that. Think about it for next year.

(cont'd. pg. 3)

(President's Message cont'd) We will be starting up membership zoom calls again this year. We want to focus on Units and Districts. Remember not to hold membership. This could cause a member to lose valuable benefits. If there are any membership questions or concerns, please contact me or Angie Mulligan, our Department Membership Chairman.

Please remember that if your Unit, District or Division is planning something special, please send me an invitation. I will try to make as many events as time allows. I will be attending National President Vicki's Homecoming in Indiana. Let's hope for good weather. I am looking forward to attending many of the daily activities that have been planned.

A MESSAGE FROM MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN ANGIE MULLIGAN

We have gotten off to a slow start this year, but now that renewal notices have been received hopefully we will see an explosion in renewals arriving at the Department Office. Please do not hold on to membership and please let us know if there is anything we can do to assist with getting membership turned in.

National Membership Chairman Linda S. Tome has created a great list of ideas to encourage both recruiting new members and rejoining former members.

Here are the first few:

1. Host a "bring a friend" meeting

Encourage members to bring someone. This could even be a recurring event so that new members are continually bringing new friends! Maybe make this meeting a "bring a dish to pass" by members - too formal? How about dessert & coffee??

2. Reach out to former members

Some people might be ready to come back – maybe there were issues before; let them know that there is new leadership!

3. Encourage members to share your newsletter

Especially if they're featured in it! Don't have a newsletter? Start one! Best way to get the word out of what events are coming up and the outcome of recent events!

4. Invite members' families to events

Spouses, siblings, parents, and (grown-up) children are all potential members (depending on how the member was eligible for membership).

If your unit has ideas that have worked for you, please share them with us so that we can spotlight them in the ALA Today!

A MESSAGE FROM DEPARTMENT COMMANDER LOMAC A. PAYTON



Greetings American Legion Family—

We are in our 3rd month of the new American Legion Year and things seem to be going well. I have mentioned from time to time that we are making changes in the operations of Department Programs. Some of these changes are long overdue and we need to change with the times:

- 1. The newsletter: Shandi has done a professional job changing the newsletter.**
- 2. Ron Hoffman has changed the Community Service Program and it looks great as well.**
- 3. Jim Talaska has changed the way our workshops are being taught. Post Level Training for Post Officers, District Officers and Division Officers as well. All training starts with the theme “Back to the Basics.” That’s what we need to do to get back to the basics.**

On Friday, September 2, we had leadership training for Division Officers, followed by our 3rd training for District Officers that Saturday. Both were held at Department Headquarters with a great turnout. On Saturday September 10, we held a workshop in Centralia, Il which had our largest turnout so far. Next will be Post Level Training for Post Commanders and Sr. Vice Commanders. I’m asking all to please attend these training workshops and learn what you may not already know about The American Legion. In the meantime, let’s get busy and get our members signed up to date in membership. Also, keep up your Buddy Checks. Take care, let’s get busy and be safe. May GOD bless.

Your Department Commander, Lomac A. Payton

A MESSAGE FROM DETACHMENT COMMANDER KEVIN O'CONNELL



Greeting from the Sons of the American Legion Detachment of Illinois. The Conventions are in our rear view mirror and it's time to get to work. Which means membership and special projects are front and center.

Currently, the Detachment of Illinois is ranked 6th in the nation for membership numbers. We accredit our early numbers on our five-year membership card program. We are working hard to keep our numbers up and asking our Squadrons to get the renewals in early. We also have a few new Squadrons on our horizon. My special project for this year is promoting Veteran Suicide Prevention Programs. I have had a few prevention programs reach out for me and delivered brochures for me to pass out. Also promoting the V.A. suicide prevention hot line number.

The National American Legion Suicide Prevention Program is called "Be The One". As explained, it asks that you....Be the one to ask Veterans in your life how they are doing. To be the one to listen when a Veteran needs to talk. To be the one to reach out when a Veteran is struggling. We simply cannot stand by while those who gave so much for our National security fight the demons of P.T.S.D. alone. We owe it to them to help them in anyway we can.

For God and Country,

**Kevin O'Connell
Commander
Sons of the American Legion
Detachment of Illinois**

LEADERSHIP

Department Chairman Sue Cunniff Coughlin

Our Leadership theme this year is "Hugs for Heroes and all our Leaders too!"

For the past two years, we have been conducting breakout leadership sessions at our Department Convention. They continue to be successful so once again we will hold breakout sessions at Convention. We are also hoping to have our National Central Division Vice President Ann Rehbein in attendance and she will conduct one of the sessions.

To make this successful, I need your help. You need to let me know what topics you would like to cover. Just send me an email or give me a call. You will receive more information on the sessions later in the year.

I hope that many of you will hold Leadership sessions in your areas this year. Try to put one together at the Division or District Level. At the Unit and District level, try to include a few leadership topics at all of your meetings. If you plan to have a class or need some help, please let me know. I will do my best to help you out.

The awards for Leadership can be found on our Department website at www.ILALA.org under Programs and Leadership.

There are many resources available about leadership on our National website at www.ALAFORVETERANS.org. Just type in leadership and many topics will come up. Just scroll through them and I am sure you will find something of interest. There are Junior and Senior leadership courses also available. The ALA Academy is another great source that has many courses available. These courses can be taken together at your Unit meetings.

(cont. pg. 7)

LEADERSHIP

Department Chairman Sue Cunniff Coughlin

(cont. from page 6)

The leadership chairmanship also recognizes and honors outstanding Unit members through Unit Member of the Year. I know we all have Unit members that are the backbone of our Units. Please think about submitting these members for this award. This year, the award has a new name – Diana's Hats Off to You. Wouldn't it be exciting to have your Unit member of the year to be the first to win it?

If you have any questions or ideas, I can be reached via email at cunniffsue@gmail.com or call me at 773-852-5560. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sue Cunniff Coughlin
Department Leadership Chairman

ALAMIS Changes

Unit Write \$15.00 (new) - Can edit/add members and leader information

Unit View \$10.00 (staying the same) - Can view unit/member and leader information

These changes will take effect Jan. 1, 2023. Subscription access is Jan 1-Dec 31, 2023.

November Dates the Office is Closed

Tuesday, November 8th

Thursday, November 24th

Friday, November 25th

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

Department Chairman Pam Corbin

The Constitution & Bylaws committee will “Keep Smiling While giving Hugs For Our Heroes.”

There is an awesome template available on the Department website for updating constitution and bylaws for Units, Districts and Divisions. I strongly encourage all units, districts and divisions to check and make sure you have up to date documents. Using that template, the documents on file at Department are more consistent in structure.

As you review the template available on the website for your use, notice the change in the Eligibility section. “Wives” has been changed to “spouses” and the eligibility dates have been updated. This is important. Don’t forget to include your Standing Rules.

You need to send your constitution and bylaws to me for review. If there are any questions, I will contact you. They will no longer be marked “approved,” they will be marked “received.” After receipt and review, you will be notified that I received them and I reviewed and sent them to Department for filing.

At the July 2022 Department Convention, we voted on the proposed changes to the Constitution & Bylaws and approved the following changes. There were housekeeping changes from Committeewoman to Committeeperson. Other changes were on the representation and length of term for the National Executive Committeeperson and the Alternate National Committeeperson. The Department Constitution & Bylaws will be updated and posted on our Department website.

At the National Convention, there was a vote on raising the membership dues. Starting the membership year of 2024 you will need to send to Department Headquarters \$29.00 instead of \$23.00 for senior members. Please remember to keep this in mind as it will help you decide if you need to vote to raise your unit dues to cover the National dues increase for the 2024 membership year.

AMERICANISM

Department of Illinois Chairman Linda Iberg

What is Americanism? "Americanism is an ideology, or belief in devotion, loyalty, or allegiance to the United States of America, or its flag, traditions, customs, culture, symbols, institutions, or form of government" per the American Legion, a U.S. Veterans organization. Hence our slogan this year will be Americanism "bears" witness to keep it strong! We use icons to symbolize our American identity. Common icons are the U. S. flag, the Great Seal, the bald eagle, The Star-Spangled Banner, In God we Trust and the Pledge of Allegiance. We need to show our pride every day. Be proud to be an American citizen. Teach the new generations the meaning of Americanism. They will be the leaders of tomorrow.

We will be sponsoring the Americanism essay contest and the American Legion Oratorical contest. There will be more information on these two events in coming weeks. Please watch the ALA news, the Fall Packet sent to Unit Presidents, your emails and social media for updates. Applications will be available on our websites.

This year we will again have the contests and award plaques in two categories. Ricky's Country Girls plaque: Unit showing the most outstanding participation on promoting Americanism to the schools. Runner up will receive a personal award of \$5.

Doris Schulz "God Bless America" plaque: Unit for the best overall participation in Americanism program. Runner up will receive a personal award of \$5. Also, the Unit with the best participation in the essay contest will receive a \$10.00 personal award.

One more award under this chairman's umbrella is the Serve and Protect Cadet of the Year plaque. This will be for the outstanding cadet at the American Legion Police School. The award will be presented at the end of the Police school week.

We all are one when we support our country and the American beliefs it was founded on. Raise your flag, show your spirit in your community and hold tight our right of freedom.

(Cont'd on page 10)

AMERICANISM

Department of Illinois Chairman Linda Iberg

(cont'd from page 9)

Division Americanism chairman:

Division 1: Ken-Anne Rhodes

Division 2: Karen Melone

Division 3: Belinda Rusch

Division 4: Debbie Myles

Division 5: Marcia Ziska

Americanism

Stand Proud

Support Our Country

Right Hand Over Heart

We Pledge Our Allegiance Proudly

Freedom, Democracy For All

Red, White, Blue

We Salute

Americanism!

By Linda Iberg

Please check out the Americanism tab on www.ilala.org for links to websites for flag education, the pocket flag program and other information. Also join the American Legion Auxiliary Americanism program Facebook page.

Respectfully,

Linda Iberg, Americanism Chairman 2022-2023

HOLDIAY GIFT SHOP

Department of Illinois Chairman Melinda Davis

“Celebrating our heroes at the holidays and throughout the year”

The two Holidays that the American Legion Auxiliary provides financial support through the Department of Illinois to Veterans are the Holiday Gift Shops at Christmas and the Easter Program.

The Holiday Gift Shops are for the Veterans confined to V.A. facilities to be able to give a gift to their loved ones at the Holidays. They are given the choice of \$10.00 gift cards from Walmart, Target or McDonalds which the Auxiliary then sends to the Veteran’s loved ones. The purpose of the Gift cards is for the Veteran to have a gift to give His or Her loved ones for the Holiday. They are not for the personal use of the Veteran. The Veteran will be remembered with a gift through the Gift for Yanks Program. The Veteran is allowed one Gift Card for their Spouse and one for each child living at home under the age of 18. If there is no living Spouse or children, the Veteran is allowed one Gift Card to give to a parent or representative.

The Easter Program provides a card and \$5.00 to each Veteran in the V. A. Facilities, Nursing homes, rehab, and assisted living facilities throughout the state. Veterans confined to their homes are also included. The Units will report the qualifying Veterans in their area and an Easter Card and \$5.00 will be issued the Unit Treasurer for Distribution. Veterans confined to the VA facilities will be included by the Reps of each facility.

2022 Holiday Gift Shop Dates:

Illinois Veterans Home Anna Marion V A	November 30, 2022 December 6, 2022
Illinois Veterans Home LaSalle	December 16, 2022
Illiana Health Care System	December 7 and 14, 2022
Illinois Veterans Home Manteno	December 7, 2022
Hines V A	November 11, 2022
Illinois Veterans Home Quincy	December 7, 2022
Jesse Brown West Side	December 8, 2022
Captain James A Lovell FHCC	November 19, 2022
St Louis Jefferson Barracks	To Be Announced



Fall Forum Dates: All meetings start at 9:00 a.m.
except where noted below



October 22: 5th Division Fall Forum
Post #176 Fairfield, IL

October 29: 2nd Division Fall Forum
Post #1207 Rockford, IL **10:00 am**

November 8: 4th Division Fall Forum
Post #263 Lincoln, IL



If you would like to receive the ALA Today, General Department Communications and/or the Membership report, please go to the department website: www.ilala.org, select the “Mailing List” option in the banner at the top of the page and choose the information you would like to receive by clicking the appropriate box. If you do not receive the ALA Today or the Membership report via email, you can always find them on the website listed above as well. Please check your SPAM box.



ALA - Department of Illinois 2022/2023 Master Snip Sheet

Mail to: American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Illinois, P O Box 1426, Bloomington, IL 61702-1426

Past Presidents Parley	Nurses Scholarship	\$ _____
Parley Dues - \$1 per Past President(include Parley Dues Form)		\$ _____
Veterans Affairs & Rehab		\$ _____
Six Point Program ***		
Treasure Chest/Hospitality \$	Christmas Gift Shop \$	_____
Canteen Books \$	Easter Gift \$	_____
Fresh Fruit \$	VA Nursing Homes \$	_____
Postage Stamps		\$ _____
Fisher House		\$ _____
Hospitals and Facilities - General Donation ***		\$ _____
Anna Veterans Home \$	LaSalle Veterans Home \$	_____
Bob Michel Outpatient Clinic \$	Capt. James Lovell FHCC \$	_____
Decatur Outpatient Clinic \$	Manteno Veterans Home \$	_____
Hines VA \$	Marion VA \$	_____
Illiana VA \$	Mattoon Outpatient Clinic \$	_____
Jefferson Barracks St. Louis VA \$	Quincy Veterans Home \$	_____
John Cochran St. Louis VA \$	Springfield Outpatient Clinic \$	_____
Jesse Brown VA \$		_____

Please list if Hospital/Facility donation is for a special purpose or program

The American Legion	Gifts to the Yanks ***	\$ _____
	American Legion Child Welfare Foundation	\$ _____
TAL Commanders Special Project	Illinois Disaster Fund and The Haven	\$ _____
SAL Commanders Special Project	Prevention of Veterans Suicide Programs	\$ _____
National Organization	American Legion Auxiliary Foundation	\$ _____
	National Creative Arts Program ***	\$ _____
	National President's Special Project	\$ _____

Memorial Donation to (program)	_____	\$ _____
In honor of	_____	
Acknowledgement Sent to	_____	

Total \$ _____

*** Poppy funds may be used for these programs ***

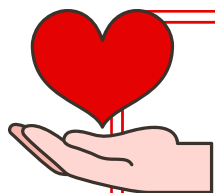
Date _____ **Unit Name** _____ **Unit #** _____

Submitted by _____ **Phone** _____ **email** _____

Reminders



- There are still membership packets in the office. They will be sent out when the office receives the unit's 2022-2023 officer's list.
- **Unit Presidents:** watch for the fall packet coming out in a couple of weeks. It will include: Americanism Brochure, scholarship information and applications.
- USPS Renewal Notices were sent out September 15 from National.
- Check the snip sheet, there are so many good programs your unit can support. Our Veterans and facilities are still in need.



Important Donation Dates

Your donations may be sent in any time of the year. Here are some dates to keep in mind:

December 31: Six Point Program Donations need to be received at the Department office in order for a unit to receive the Unit citation for donating.

March 15: A donation in any amount to the Nurse's Scholarship **AND** Past President's Parley dues must be received for a unit to submit a candidate for the Nurse's scholarship.

May 31: Any donations received after May 31 will not appear in the Department Convention Book of Reports.

Many units send all their donations at once for the year using the snip sheet. Others spread their donations out over the year. It is the unit's choice when they want to donate.



American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Illinois
PO Box 1426
Bloomington, IL 61702-1426
Telephone: (309)663-9366

2023 DUES REMITTANCE

Date: _____

Unit Name _____ Unit # _____ Dist # _____

Person preparing membership remittance:

Name: _____

Daytime Phone: _____

Email: _____

Number of Seniors: _____ @\$23.00 \$ _____

Number of Juniors: _____ @\$ 3.35 \$ _____

Total Due \$ _____

Credit/Debit Used \$ _____

Amount of Check Enclosed \$ _____ Check # _____

Reminders:

List all members in alphabetical order

If a member is new please write "New" in member number space

All new junior members must have a birthdate

Member ID# is required for everyone, except new members

Any member transferring must have a completed transfer included with transmittal

If paying previous years dues, please fill out prior year transmittal

Unit Name:_____ Unit _____

- 1) List ALL members you are paying for ALPHABETICALLY on this sheet.
- 2) List only the members you are paying for-DO NOT List PUFL's, Deceased or Paid up Transfers
- 3) List ALL ID#s (except new members-leave ID# blank)
- 4) Junior members that turn 18 on December 31, 2022 or before, must pay Senior dues for 2022 membership.

	Member ID	Name as it appears on the National Roster If there has been a recent name change, please include both names	2023 Renewal Senior	2023 Renewal Junior	2023 New Senior	2023 New Junior	Former /Rejoin Senior	Former /Rejoin Junior
1								
2								
3								
4								
5								
6								
7								
8								
9								
10								
11								
12								
13								
14								

The American Legion Auxiliary — Department of Illinois
P.O. BOX 1426

BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS 61702

Phone: 309-663-9366

Fax: 309-663-5827

Web: www.ilala.org

Email: executivesecretary@ilala.org

Department President

Managing Director

Janet Bacon

Renee Mathews

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG

U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

Bloomington, IL

Permit No. 18



American Legion Auxiliary

A community of volunteers

Serving veterans, military, and their families



Dates to Remember

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| January 12-21 | American Legion Family Membership Caravan |
| January 31 | Lincoln Pilgrimage Award Deadline |
| February 11-12 | Abraham Lincoln Pilgrimage, Springfield, Illinois |
| March 17-18 | Patriotic Conference and Spring Board Meeting
Abraham Lincoln Hotel Springfield, Illinois |
| June 18 - 24 | ALA Illini Girls State - Charleston, Illinois |
| July 12 -15 | Department Convention, Springfield, Illinois |