December 2022

ALA TODAY



Department of Illinois





The American Legion Family leadership touring the Marion VA Center

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Egyptian Past
Commander's Club
President Ben Picou and
Egyptian Past President's
Club Linda Iberg
presenting Department
President Janet with a
citation.





President Janet addressed the Haven dinner with PDC Bill Flanagan (emcee)

A MESSAGE FROM DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT JANET BACON



I cannot believe that we are in the holiday season! Seems like yesterday when we were making plans for our Fall Forums. As we go into this holiday season, please remember our service men and women and their families in our communities and those that are deployed.

November was a very busy month. We finished up our Fall Forums. Unfortunately, I was sick and unable to attend. Membership Chairman Angie Mulligan and 1st Vice President Angie Golightly stepped up and did a great job. Thank you, ladies, for stepping up and making it a success. Then we moved on to Veterans Day. I was able to present a program that I had created several years ago and attend another program at another school. While at the other school, there was a funeral procession for a Veteran that had been a POW/MIA. This procession went by every school and students came out to pay their respects to the fallen hero. It was very humbling to see these students salute and wave at the flags in his honor. As I browsed through social media, I saw some marvelous things being done that day and on the weekend that followed. Please be sure you write those activities up and send the report along with pictures to Jill Layton, our Historian. Many of our VAs have started their Gift Shops. Please check with the VA reps before showing up. There still might be restrictions that we will need to follow.

I have been traveling throughout the state visiting Units, Districts and Divisions. This past weekend, Jim and I attended the 85th Annual Egyptian Past Commanders Jamboree held in Marion. This also included a tour of the Haven and a steak dinner that was also held at the Haven. It is a very calming place to be. There is a beautiful lake surrounding the property. A beautiful stone fireplace was lit to keep out the cold and a lot of furniture makes you feel right at home. We had a tour of the Marion VA. There is so much going on there. They are making it easier for our Veterans to gain access to the facility by enlarging the parking lot, making walk-ways easier to maneuver and expanding the hospital so more patients can be seen. The only restriction that we had to follow was to wear a mask when inside the facility. Saturday night there was a banquet. It was my honor to introduce the American Legion Auxiliary Past Department Presidents that were in attendance. The SAL Commander and the Legion Commander also brought greetings as well as other distinguished guests.

(cont'd on page 3)

(cont'd from page 2)

January is right around the corner. Please mark your calendars to attend a stop during the American Legion Family Caravan. This is for everyone! You can turn in membership and listen to our guest speaker. This year our guest speaker is National Vice Commander Ken Hylton. I would love to see Auxiliary members attend. The schedule is on page 13 to see the stop near you. You could always attend more than one stop. Please remind members that have not paid their 2022-2023 dues by January 1, 2023, that they are not in good standing and this could cause issues. I am looking forward to seeing many of you.

My family and I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Celebrate the holidays with loved ones whether they are near or far away. Most important is to remember our Veterans and their families. Until next year......

A MESSAGE FROM MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN ANGIE MULLIGAN

The Department of Illinois has a lot to celebrate this month when it comes to Membership.

2017 Millenium Unit - 30 members on their new charter.

The following units will receive a \$25 gift card to Emblem Sales from National for achieving 100% by November 11th.

0193 Fickbohm-Hissem (Galena)	125.00%
1255 Stookey (Belleville)	106.90%
0197 Eugene J Barloga (Pecatonica)	105.56%
0429 Community (Lovington)	102.78%
0499 Speicher (Gilman)	102.38%
0521 Steger	100.00%
0254 Illini (Magnolia)	100.00%
0611 Wilbur Braughton (Stewardson)	100.00%
1189 Waynesville	100.00%
0485 Prairie Du Pont (Dupo)	100.00%

Although we fell short of our 50% goal from National, our numbers are increasing. Please make sure that any and all membership that your unit has received has been sent into the Department office before the holidays so that members who have paid are removed from the list for renewal notices. Members are very discouraged with our organization when they are "reminded" to pay their dues weeks and months after this has already been completed. If there is anything that I can do to assist with membership in any capacity, please do not hesitate to reach out. I am always happy to help.

A MESSAGE FROM DEPARTMENT COMMANDER LOMAC A. PAYTON



We are in the month of December and Christmas is just a few weeks away. I'm hoping everyone will have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. So much has happened during these last four months since August 2022. We've had post level training and made other changes to The American Legion programs. Things seem to be working and going in the direction we like.

Everyone should have plans in place for the new year starting. I was in Indianapolis, Indiana at National Headquarters. We had a series of training for two days. At the hotel, we had two days of training as well. I had the pleasure of meeting and sharing ideas with other Department Commanders. Other Commanders and I were invited to have breakfast with one of the National Vice Commanders and present our plans for our state for this year. Last month we visited the Haven in Marion, Illinois.

We have plans in place for the annual membership caravan starting in January 2023. We also will be attending the President Truman Pilgrimage in Independence, Missouri. Our post level workshops have been very successful. The participation has been wonderful. Jim has done a great job teaching and pointing out how important it is for Post Commanders, Post Adjutants and Post members to attend these workshops. As we serve our Veterans in The American Legion, it is a continual learning process for all of us. How can you lead where you don't go? How can you teach what you don't know? Continue to read your Officer's Guide and other manuals. Educate yourself about The American Legion and its programs. Then you can teach members in your post.

There are three types of people: the ones that make things happen, the ones that watch things happen and the ones that wonder what happened. I encourage you to be the one that makes things happen. Take care and keep each other in your prayers. May GOD bless.

Your Department Commander, Lomac A. Payton

A MESSAGE FROM DETACHMENT COMMANDER KEVIN O'CONNELL



Greetings,

In my travels I have had the opportunity to attend several American Legion Auxiliary meetings. I just want to say that the Auxiliary does so much for Veterans and you should be proud. It's great to see the spirit of cooperation and dedication you provide. The Illinois American Legion Family truly is the best.

National started a program called "Be the One" which is a program designed to locate and help Veterans in need. As a part of the program, a new hot line number has been developed, (988). As National says, "998 prevents a 911". As you're aware, my special project this year is supporting Veteran Suicide Prevention programs which goes along with National. So take time, especially during the holidays to do Buddy Checks. "Be the One" to help a Veteran in need. On the National website, there is a lot of information on how to properly do Buddy Checks and be a part of the solution.

Our membership is going well so far. We are ranked 11th Nationally and we are in 2nd place in the Central Division. Our Sr. Vice Commander Mike Vozar is working very hard trying to bring those numbers up. We also have good news as it looks like we may have at least five new Squadrons starting up. This is fantastic because it shows the Sons of the American Legion is growing. If any American Legion Post needs information on how to start a Squadron we would be more than happy to help.

We wish everyone in the American Legion Family Happy Holidays and please stay safe. God Bless you and God Bless our Country. Kevin O'Connell

GOLD STAR

Department Chairman Kathy Cisna

Gold Star Members are Beary special members.

A Gold Star member is a spouse, mother, daughter or sister of a fallen service member who died in service to his or her country. A displayed Gold Star Service Flag helps us recognize the Gold Star families. The U.S. Department of Defense issues Gold Star lapel pins to immediate family members of a fallen service member. These pins are worn by spouses, parents and children of service members killed in the line of duty and contain a gold star on a purple circular background.

Units are encouraged to honor their Gold Star members throughout the year. There are several ways to honor these members. Your Units can pay a member's dues or purchase the Gold Star flag or a lapel pin or honor their loved ones with a dedicated service project. Use your imagination and get creative to honor these special members throughout the year. Please let me know how you are honoring your Gold Star Members so I can pass that information along.

Gold Star Mother's Day is observed in the United States on the last Sunday of September each year. It is a day for people to recognize and honor those who have lost any family member in service to their country. This year it was on Sunday September 25th. Please let me know how you honored your Gold Star Mothers. This year we will again have a dinner honoring Gold Star Members and Past Presidents at Convention. I look forward to planning this dinner with PPP Chairman Patti.

(cont'd on page 7)

GOLD STAR

Department Chairman Kathy Cisna

(cont'd from page 6)

Think of ways to honor your Gold Star members throughout the entire year and remember to report it.

We will also be continuing our Fallen Heroes Wall of Honor again this year. There has been little to no activity on the Wall of Honor in the past year. I encourage you to check it out on the Department website and add your Fallen Heroes.



IMPORTANT DONATION DATES

Your donations may be sent in any time of the year. Here are some dates to keep in minds 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 15th: Education and Children & Youth donations must be received by this date in order for a unit to submit scholarship applications for consideration.

April 10th: A donation in any amount to the Nurse's Scholarship <u>AND</u> 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.

ALAMIS WORKSHOPS: INTEREST SURVEY

ALAMIS Workshops: Interest Survey (American Legion Auxiliary Management Information System)

Not sure what ALAMIS is? Unclear how or even if access can assist your unit membership efforts? Has your unit purchased access, but haven't started using it yet? Experienced user of ALAMIS, but looking to learn some tips and tricks?

We are here to help. We would like to offer some Zoom workshops in January to answer these questions and more. Please fill out the survey linked here: <u>ALAMIS Workshop Interest Survey</u> or found on the front page of the Department website at <u>ilala.org</u>. In addition to your contact information, we are asking your access level (non-user, new user, experienced) along with days and times that would be most convenient. Based on interest of each level, we will reach out to those interested with dates and times. Please contact Angie Mulligan (mickeym@ameritech.net or 815-546-6486) with any questions.

EDUCATION

Education Chairman Barbara Howe

In the fall packet mailed to Unit Presidents, I made a mistake. For the "Illinois Scholarship for Junior Members" <u>PLEASE</u> send them to: Barbara Howe, 4714 Ottawa Rd., Wonder Lake, IL 60097 or Email: Howe608@comcast.net. My phone number is 815-355-0253. I will try to answer all phone calls. If I don't, PLEASE leave a message and I will call you back as soon as possible. DO NOT SEND TO: Julia Moore. If you do not send your "Illinois Scholarship for Junior Members" for 2022-2023 to Barbara Howe, the scholarships will not be judged. Sorry about the mistake. Please make time to correct my mistake. Also, under important Donation Dates, make sure you send in your donation to the Education fund before MARCH 15 of any amount, before you submit a candidate to the Education committee. Thank you.

Annual National American Legion Pilgrimage

89th Annual National American Legion Pilgrimage to the Tomb of President Abraham Lincoln

February 11-12, 2023

Contact Pilgrimage Chair, Bob Wesley, if you have any questions.

Phone: 217-899-6826

Email: bobwesley37@yahoo.com

Hotel reservations:

Doubletree Hotel

701 E Adams St

Springfield, Illinois 62701

217-544-8800

PATRIOTIC CONFERENCE



Patriotic Conference is being held March 17th, 2023 in Springfield. The board meeting will start Friday evening and conclude on Saturday, March 18th. More details will be available in the January/February issue of the ALA Today.

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.
- <u>Fall Packet:</u> Unit Presidents were mailed the Fall Packet in October. It included Scholarship and Department Awards information and much more. Contact your Unit President if you need any of this information.
- Check the snip sheet, there are so many good programs your Unit can support. Our Veterans and facilities are still in need.
- Six Point Program: Citations are given to those units who donate to all the Six Point Programs by December 31, 2022.

EASTER GIFT PROGRAM

Department Chairman Melinda Davis

Easter gifts in the amount of \$5.00 will be provided for the Veterans who are homebound, hospitalized, in nursing homes, assisted living facilities or completely disabled. This program is made possible through the Unit contributions to the fifth point of the 6 Point Program. An Easter card will also be provided by the Department to accompany the \$5.00 Easter gift. Now is the time for Units to survey all local care centers in your communities looking for the men and women Veterans to honor at this time. Veterans in VA Medical Centers and state hospitals will be counted by the Hospital Representatives and Service to Veterans Facilities Directors, so DO NOT include these Veterans in your count. Report those you find on the survey sheet below by MARCH 17, 2023. Return the sheet to: Melinda Davis 5362 Yellowstone Drive Rockford IL 61109 You may also send it by email to: ashme113.md@gmail.com (Add Additional names on back or another sheet of paper) UNIT NAME_____ UNIT Number____ District____ FACILITY NAME______ Number of Veterans_____ NAME AND ADDRESS OF HOMEBOUND VETERANS_____ Total number of Veterans __ The Checks and Cards will be sent to the Unit Treasurer. Unit Treasurer_____ Address Area code and Phone Number_____ Unit President_____ Address_____ Area code and Phone number_____

VALENTINE'S DAY



Remembering our Female Vets on Valentine's Day

February 14, 2023

ALAMIS Changes

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

For current subscribers, this is the access you have

Unit View \$10.00 - Can view unit/member and leader information

All current ALAMIS users will need to complete a <u>new</u> authorization form to ensure you are receiving the desired level of access.

Members whose authorization forms and payment reach Department Office by December 16th will have access beginning January 1, 2023. Authorizations and payments received after December 16th may experience an interruption and delay in access.

New forms were sent to <u>current</u> users. If your unit does not currently have access and would like access, please call or email to request a form. Phone: 309-663-9366. Email: executivesecretary@ilala.org.

CARAVAN STOPS 2023

2023 AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY January 13 - 22, 2023 MEMBERSHIP CARAVAN SCHEDULE

JANUARY	Div#	Dist#	Post #	CITY	MEAL
JANUARY 13	3	15	381	ABINGDON	BREAKFAST 8:30 AM
JANUARY 13	3	14	227	EAST MOLINE	LUNCH 11:30 AM
JANUARY 13	2	13	193	GALENA	DINNER 6:00 PM
JANUARY 14	2	12	337	GENOA	LUNCH 11:30 AM
JANUARY 14	2	10	771	GURNEE	DINNER 6:00 PM
JANUARY 15	1	9	36	DES PLAINES	BREAKFAST 8:30 AM
JANUARY 15	1	5	687	STICKNEY	HORS D'OEUVRES (TBD)
JANUARY 15	1	2	923	CHICAGO	HORS D'OEUVRES (TBD)
JANUARY 15	2	11	80	DOWNERS GROVE	DINNER 6:00 PM
JANUARY 16	4	18	51	WESTVILLE	LUNCH 11:30 AM
JANUARY 16	4	19	55	FARMER CITY	DINNER 6:00 PM
JANUARY 17	CAR	AVAN DA	Y OFF ★	CARAVAN DAY OFF	★ CARAVAN DAY OFF
JANUARY 18	5	23	1168	EDGEWOOD	LUNCH 11:30 AM
JANUARY 18	5	24	306	METROPOLIS	DINNER 6:00 PM
JANUARY 19	5	25	147	MARION	LUNCH 11:30 AM
JANUARY 19	5	22	199	EDWARDSVILLE	DINNER 6:00 PM
JANUARY 20	3	20	1083	KAMPSVILLE	LUNCH 11:30 AM
JANUARY 20	4	21	386	VIRDEN	DINNER 6:00 PM
JANUARY 21	3	16	979	BARTONVILLE	LUNCH 11:30 AM
JANUARY 21	4	17	1115	SPRING BAY	DINNER 6:00 PM

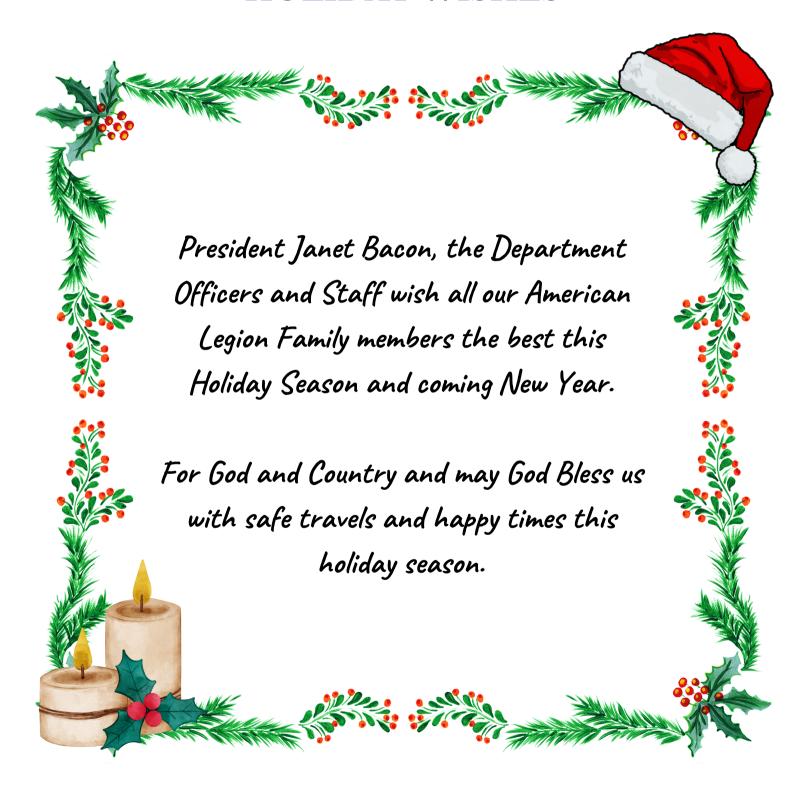


National Vice Commander, Ken Hylton will be our special guest during the 2023 Illinois American Legion Family Caravan. Please make time to come to one of the caravan stops nearest you to visit with him. Also, if you plan on attending the meal you need to R.S.V.P. the host post.



Bring all membership cards with you to turn in...even if it's just ONE!

HOLIDAY WISHES



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

Dept. President's Special Project	Education Sch	nolarships	\$	
Americanism	Americanism	Fund	\$	
	Spirit of Youth	Fund	\$	
Auxiliary Emergency Fund	AEF Fund		\$	
Children & Youth				
Children's Miracle Network		Christmas Gif	t Program \$	
Chicago/Rockfor	'd \$	Children & Youth So	:holarship \$	
Peor	ia <mark>\$</mark>	Illinois Military Ki	ds Project \$	
Springfield/Champaig	n \$	Special	Olympics \$	
St. Loui	is \$	_		
Education	Education Sch	nolarships	\$	
Junior Activities	Dept. Junior C	Conference	\$	
	Junior Group	Donations	\$	
Illini Girls State	IGS Program I	Donation	\$	
	IGS Registrati	on -	\$	
			\$	
National Conveits	National Socie	eite Frank		
National Security	National Secu USO Centers	-	<u>\$</u>	
	030 Centers		*	
		Midway O'Hare	\$	
		Rock Island	\$	
		St. Louis	\$	
		St. Louis	*	
			Total \$	
DateUnit N	ame		_ Unit #	
Submitted by	Pho	ne email		

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		\$
Totalio Allano a Hollao	Six Point Program ***	<u> </u>
Treasure Chest/Hospitality	•	on \$
Canteen Books		
Fresh Fruit		
		<u>-</u>
	Postage Stamps	\$
	Fisher House	\$
	Hospitals and Facilities - General Donation ***	\$
Anna Veterans Home	\$ LaSalle Veterans Hor	ne \$
Bob Michel Outpatient Clinic	\$ Capt. James Lovell FH0	CC \$
Decatur Outpatient Clinic	\$ Manteno Veterans Hor	ne \$
Hines VA	\$ Marion	/A \$
Illiana VA	\$ Mattoon Outpatient Clin	nic \$
Jefferson Barracks St. Louis VA	\$ Quincy Veterans Hor	ne \$
John Cochran St. Louis VA	\$ Springfield Outpatient Clin	nic \$
Jesse Brown VA	\$	
Please list if Hospital/Facility donati	on 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 b	e used for these programs ***	\$
*******	ımeUnit #	
Submitted by	Phone email	



Date:

Unit Namo

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

2023 DUES REMITTANCE

Unit #

Dict #

Offic Name	OIIIC #	DISC #
Person preparing membership remittance:		
Name:		
Daytime Phone:		
Email:	-	
Name have a Constitute	•	
Number of Seniors:		
Total Due \$		
Credit/Debit Used \$ Amount of Check Enclosed \$	Check #	
Reminders:		
If you have already entered in a new meml	per's informatio	on in ALAMIS, please note that
List all members in alphabetical order		
All new junior members must have a birth	date	
Member ID# is required for everyone exce	nt new membe	rs

Membership note:

Membership dues remittance forms should be received at Department by the end of day on Friday, Dec. 16. If not received by this date, members who have not paid their dues will receive the 2nd membership notice from National Headquarters.

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)
- Junior members that turn 18 on December 31, 2022 or before, must pay Senior dues for 2023 membership.

Member ID#		Name as it appears on the National Roster				23 ew	Former/ rejoin	
	Welliber 1D#	(If there has been a recent name change please include both names.)	Reno	JR	SR	JR	SR	JR
1								
2								
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Total Sr's	this page	Total Jr's this	page

Illinois American Legion Auxiliary 2023 Membership Report Janet Bacon, President; Angie Mulligan, Membership Chairman

		American Legion Auxiliary Member	ship R	eport	- 11/23/2022	
District	Division	President	Units	Goal	Total Members	Goal %
9	1	Cindy Hall	6	584	403	69.01%
18	4	Clarissa Mennega	27	1137	770	67.72%
13	2	Jerri Akins	15	598	401	67.06%
16	3	Teri Miller	25	1259	842	66.88%
25	5	Doris Bartolotti	16	926	600	64.79%
19	4	Patti Williamson	33	2074	1342	64.71%
23	5	Mary Madson	25	1616	1035	64.05%
14	3	Doris Kilkenny	13	669	428	63.98%
17	4	Marsha Haag	36	1542	978	63.42%
4	1	Ruth Elzinga	7	213	134	62.91%
7	1	Bonnie Sheirok	3	147	90	61.22%
3	1	Suzette Lykes	7	108	66	61.11%
10	2	Karen Stetina	13	572	345	60.31%
12	2	Mary Brubach	24	1708	1015	59.43%
22	5	Marge Leezy	30	1071	609	56.86%
11	2	Laurel Hickman	34	1887	1031	54.64%
20	3	Catharine Reavley	23	753	381	50.60%
15	3	Sue DeDecker	27	1053	527	50.05%
8	1	Helen Stewart	11	637	318	49.92%
21	4	Jane Harmon	17	632	307	48.58%
5	1	Juanita LoGiudice	11	376	172	45.74%
24	5	Louise Jones	15	655	289	44.12%
2	1		4	103	38	36.89%
		Headquarters 2910	1	1745	396	22.69%
		TOTALS	423	22065	12520	56.73%
	4	Roseann Coers		5385	3397	63.08%
	5	Debbie Ferguson		4268	2533	59.35%
	2	Linda Fagan		4765	2792	58.59%
	3	Belinda Rusch		3734	2178	58.33%
	1	Linda Anderson Shells		2168	1221	56.32%
		Goal Units	14			
		Angie Mulligan			Janet Bacon	
		Department Membership Chairman			Department President	

ELECTRONIC SERIVCE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Bloomington, IL
Permit No. 18

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



Dates to Remember

December 16 ALAMIS authorization forms in to Dept. office January 13–21 American Legion Family Membership Caravan

January 31 Lincoln Pilgrimage Award Deadline

February 11-12 Abraham Lincoln Pilgrimage, Springfield, Illinois

March 17 Patriotic Conference - Springfield, Illinois June 18-24 ALA Illini Girls State - Charleston, Illinois

July 12-15 Department Convention - Springfield, Illinois