

ANGIE GOLIGHTLY

American Legion Auxiliary Department of Illinois President 2023-2024

SERVING VETERANS, THE REAL SUPERHEROES



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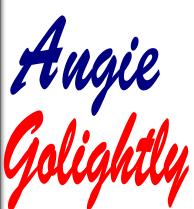


(Top Left) President Angie Golightly with Department Commander Delmar Buske, and SAL Commander Mike Vozar.

(Top Right) Past Department Presidents Carollee Junge and Pat Sienkiewicz escorting Springfield Mayor Misty Buscher to the podium.

(Bottom) American Legion Family at Department Oratorical Contest.





Did you get to see the eclipse? During the last one some of us were in session at a National Convention. I guess the convention 'eclipsed' the eclipse. It is good when people get together for a purpose, like watching an eclipse or sharing accomplishments through the ALA.

Our District Presidents have added up your donations and hours. Our Chairmen are looking at your award entries. Our hope is that you share what you've done this year, as you start your new year.

The Junior Conference was great. Those young members really do give us hope for the future. Chairman Angie Mulligan did a great job to ensure the event was fun and everyone learned from it. A big thank you to the Junior Advisors and parents, ensuring the members were able to attend and all those that helped to make the conference possible.

I've truly enjoyed attending meetings with fellow members. I will be attending Armed Forces events by the time you read this. I hope I've gotten many pledges to support our walk for suicide awareness, although I'll be good to walk one of the 8 miles.

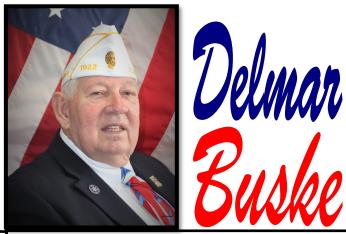
Poppy Days will take us out in our communities. Be ready with a membership brochure with your contact info on it, as many Veterans and families will speak to you. Take a child along. It's an activity they will remember, and they are a great 'attention getter' when giving out poppies. Be sure everyone wears poppies and ALA apparel. You'll look great!

I keep finding new information on our new website The unit handbook is there and membership applications plus so much more. We hope you will continually use it. It's a beautiful tool. Consider adding your events. The more we share the better!

Summer Special Olympics will soon be here & ALA Illini Girls State. Send & sponsor many citizens, we need them! Department Convention plans are in the works. We hope you plan to attend.

Until next time, keep being the super members that you are, serving Veterans, the 'real' superheroes!

Please take a moment and donate to my special project - the Illinois VA Facilities and Illinois Veterans Homes!



Greetings to our American Legion Family!

It seems like the closer we get to convention, the faster time flies by. It is going to be nice to see everyone at the convention. Now is the time to be making your arrangements to be there.

The Illinois General Assembly has proclaimed March 29th as Vietnam Veterans Day. It was an honor for me to speak at the Danville V.A. on that day to about twenty five Vietnam Veterans. What a wonderful way to spend the day.

Been trying to go to all of Pam Ray's fundraisers. As a Legion Family member, it is nice to help Pam out on her quest to become National President in a couple years.

Had our Department Executive Committee meeting in Normal this past weekend. We talked about the convention, membership, the "Be the One" Walk in Southern Illinois, and the Armed Forces Week among other topics.

From there I went to Monticello to the Auxiliary Juniors Program. What a great turnout and a fantastic couple of days. It's great to see the Auxiliary working with the future members of our organization.

Our TAL family has worked together all year. Thanks for all your support.

Thank you President Angie & Commander Mike for an amazing year serving our veterans & their families.





Greetings from the Detachment of Illinois!

We continue to reach out for renewals and recruit new members. Strong active membership allows us to better support our veterans, Posts, and promote Legion Family programs! As of this writing we are over 98% membership and hoping for 100% or more!

Our Spring DEC in Effingham was well attended. We were honored to have SAL National Commander Hall bring remarks and participate including recognition of Marshall Squadron 90 as the first in Illinois to become a National Four Pillars Squadron.

Detachment leadership attended the Central Region Extravaganza in Columbus, Ohio. This annual event is a great networking opportunity to learn about effective communication, program support, and share ideas between Detachments.

Senior Vice Rick Allen participated at the Auxiliary Juniors and Young Sons Conference in Monticello which was a very successful event. We continue our efforts to engage Young Suns with the Patch program, and teach them about service to others, Americanism, honoring and supporting our veterans.

Squadrons worked with Post Family in many areas to celebrate American Legion Family Day.

It was a pleasure attending the Fourth Division fundraiser at Mattoon Post 88 in support of our candidate for National Auxiliary President Pam Ray! Great to see so many Legion Family members.

The Spring Illinois Premier Boys State Board Meeting was very productive. June is right around the corner and we continue recruiting to assist in supporting this great program as well as for the Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Academy and referrals to Illini Girls State.

The Fifth Division Haven Run was a wonderful fundraising event to support maintaining this great day camp for veterans and their families.

As our Huskies are mushing for the finish line for this membership year and everyone has worked incredibly hard, I would like to congratulate our first District President to make 100%, Juliana Umstattd the 21st District President of the 4th Division for making 100.69% on the April 3rd membership report.

We have 57 units who have surpassed 100% and an addition 33 units that are sitting right at 100%. It is time to hook up your Huskies to the dog sleds and mush to visit those members who haven't renewed their membership this year and see if you can get more new membership collected also, we have time to make those final target date that is not far away. We have 178 units that need 5 or fewer members. There is still time to set your sights on one of our many plaques and our Traveling Necklaces that moved at Patriotic Conference to the following Presidents and Vice Presidents:

Fourth Division was in First Place in the Divisions: Suzie Weiss, President & Nora Hanaver, Vice President. In the Districts of each Division were:

First Division, 8th District, Helen Stewart, President & Lea Morsovillo, Vice President.

Second Division, 13th District, April Eberle, President & Kimberly Howard, Vice President.

Third Division, 16th District, Jodith Lewis & Teri Miller, Vice President.

Fourth Division, 21st District, Juliana Umstaddt, President & Yvonne Caudle, Vice President.

Fifth Division, 22nd District, Marge Leezy, President, & Mike Murphree, Vice President.

Don't forget to check the Fall packet for the Membership Awards that will be presented during the Membership report at Convention. I look forward to seeing all of you there and will be excited to award the winners.

(Continued on page 4)

(SAL cont'd from pg. 3)

Remember!

Armed Forces Week is coming up in May. National Commander Seehafer will be visiting and I hope you are able to attend an event in your area. Later in May, Sons will be assisting with and participating in Memorial Day activities to honor our fallen veterans.

Thank you to our veterans for your service!

Convention Mailing to Board Members

All Department Officers, Division and District Presidents, Department Chairmen, Reps and Deps and Past Department Presidents who have their email addresses on file with Department will receive their Department Convention information by email. Please check your emails.

National Convention

Woman of the Year Luncheon and States Dinner information is not available from National at the time of this printing. Look for information on the National Convention meeting at Department Convention. Sign up forms will also be available at the Department Office.

Unit Presidents May Mailing

All Unit Presidents on file with the Department will receive a packet with information and credentials for convention. There will also be a 2025 Officers List for their Unit to be sent in. No membership rosters or cards will be sent to the Unit without an Officers list being submitted to Department. **Units that have sent in the Officers List by June 30th will be able to pick up membership packets at Department Convention.**

NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS 2024

The National Scholarship winners for 2024 that will be forwarded to National for further competition are:

Junior Loyalty Morgan M. Tokarz-Deram From Wadsworth

Spirit of Youth Oaklie Layton From Mattoon

Children of Warriors Brandon Abbott From Bourbonnais

Non-Traditional R. Turner-Winston From Urbana



2024-2025 Unit Officers List

No membership rosters or cards will be sent to the Unit without an Officers List being submitted to Department.

Units that have sent in the Officers List by **June 30th** will be able to pick up membership packets at Department Convention.

If you bring your Officers List to Convention, you will also be able to pick up your packet.

Are you planning on attending National Convention in New Orleans, LA?

The dates are August 23-29, 2024

Watch for more information on the website and in email!



American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Illinois Delegates allowed (by membership) for credentials certification

1 – 251
26 – 752
76 – 1253
126 – 1754
176 – 2255
226 – 2756
276 – 3257
326 – 3758
376 – 4259
426 – 47510

476 – 525	11
526 – 575	12
576 – 625	13
626 – 675	14
676 – 725	15
726 – 775	16
776 – 825	17
826 – 875	18
876 – 925	19

Each Unit is entitled to one delegate and one alternate; and for every fifty members or major fraction thereof, one other delegate and alternate shall be allowed, provided the current dues as fixed by the Bylaws have been received by the Department Treasurer thirty days prior to the date of the annual Convention. For instance, a Unit having 24 members is entitled to one delegate and one alternate: a Unit having 26 is entitled to two delegates and two alternates. The President of the Unit and the President-elect shall have preference as nominees.

SAVE THE DATE

Fall Board Meeting

August 9 & 10, 2024

2024-2025 Department Officers, Division and District Presidents and Vice Presidents, Department Chairmen, Past Department Presidents, and Hospital Reps are **expected** to attend.

Wine and Shine for Pam Ray!

Pam Ray's Reception Committee will hold a Wine & Shine Pull at the 2024 Department Convention on Thursday evening, July 11th. Bring your favorite bottle of wine, liquor, liqueur or spirit (value of at least \$15). You can deliver it on Wednesday from 2:30 to 5:00 on the mezzanine of the Wyndham or beginning at 4:30 on Thursday. You purchase a numbered cork for \$10. As soon as you draw a cork, you are a winner. You win the bottle with the matching number of your cork! Everyone is a winner!

Basket Raffle at Department Convention

Will be held at the Wyndham Hotel during Department Convention on Thursday, July 11th. Bidding will begin shortly after the recess of the general meeting and will close at 6:30 p.m. Announcements of the winners will be made during the Gold Star/Past Presidents Parley Dinner at the Wyndham Hotel Ballroom.

District and Division Presidents will be providing the baskets.



Happy National Poppy Day-May 24, 2024

Department Leadership Classes

Department Convention will be here before we know it. Please sign up for leadership classes online at https://ilala.org/leadership/ via email ilmembership@ilala.org or by returning the snip sheet (found on page 10) to:

Cathy Zito, Department Leadership Chairman,

3228 Sunset Lane

Franklin Park, IL 60131.

If you would like to receive the ALA Today, General Department Communications and/or the Membership report, via email please go to the department website: <u>www.ilala.org</u>, 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 box next to the item. 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 and add "Executivesecretary@ilala.org" to your contact list so it will come to your Inbox.

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Arlene Holtgrave—Candidate for Department President

Arlene Holtgrave is a Paid Up For Life member of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Illinois for 41 years. Her eligibility is through her husband Ron "Moose" Holtgrave, who served in the Army during the Vietnam era. He is a Paid Up For Life member of the Breese American Legion Post 252. She is also a Gold Star Sister through the death of her brother, Ronald Tebbe who died in Vietnam July 1968. Her two daughters, granddaughter, and three grandsons are all members of the Breese American Legion Family.

Arlene has served as 23rd District President for two years and served various offices and chairs. She was Unit President several two-year terms, Unit secretary and Membership Co-Chair for 20 years and many Unit Chairs. On the 5th Division level, she served in numerous offices and chairs. On the Department level she served many committees and is on the Illini Girls State staff.



Arlene is a beautician over 50 years, retired school bus driver after 24 years, and retired from managing the office for Holtgrave BrickWork Company. She and Moose are married 47 years and they both find time to spend at their "Cabin" riding ATV, fishing, doing crafts, and spending time with the grandkids.

Timmermann-Benhoff Unit 252, Breese, the 23rd District and the 5th Division proudly endorse Arlene Holtgrave for the office of President for the Department of Illinois, 2024-2025.

Arlene is extremely proud to be a member of the American Legion Auxiliary and thanks you for your support and encouragement.



Jill Layton—Candidate for Department First Vice President

Liberty Unit 289 of Strasburg is very proud to place the name of Jill Layton before you for consideration for the position of 2024-2025 First Vice President of the Department of Illinois American Legion Auxiliary. Jill is a 63-year member, and her eligibility is through her father, W.C. "Rip" Storm, a WWII Army Veteran; her brother Larry, a Vietnam Army Veteran; and her son Josh, a Marine Veteran (currently in the Marine Reserves) who served in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

Jill served as 19th District President in 2010; and at the same time, she served as the President for two years of the Illinois Court Reporters Association!

Jill was also awarded the Illinois Court Reporters' Association Distinguished Service Award. Jill served as Fourth Division President and held several Department Chairmanships. Jill's report-writing has earned Liberty Unit many Department and National awards.

You are aware of her qualifications, so we will share some personal things about Jill. She and her husband fed the entire Cumberland football team on Thursday nights for over 10 seasons. Jill loves playing with her six grandchildren, loves chocolate, loves baking, loves court reporting, loves our Veterans and the Veterans' History Project, loves chocolate lab dogs, and loves floating in her pool. She feels if she has made someone laugh, her day is complete. You will often hear her say, "I love life."

Linda Iberg—Candidate for Department Second Vice President

Linda Iberg has been endorsed for Department of Illinois American Legion Auxiliary as Second Vice President for 2024-2025 by her Unit #439 Highland, District 22 and Division 5.

She is eligible by the service of her late father, Robert Rochell (Army WWII) and her late husband, Richard Iberg (Air Force Vietnam era).

During her years as an Auxiliary member, Linda has held several chairmanships and officer positions in her local Unit through Division; including President in all the levels.

She enjoys volunteering and helping where needed. Art/crafts and playing in her church's handbell choir are favorite hobbies.





Marybeth Revoir—Candidate for Department Treasurer

Marybeth Revoir is in her 4th decade of service to our Department of Illinois in her role as our Treasurer. She has expressed her desire to continue for another term. Marybeth is a dedicated leader in our great organization and continues to share her vast knowledge and experience to support all phases of the American Legion Auxiliary. After serving as 4th District President in 1979, Marybeth has continually served in various capacities on the Department level. Marybeth's accomplishments on behalf of the National Organization, Department, her Division, District, and Unit highlight her dedication to the ALA and its principles. Marybeth is currently serving her 4th term as National Treasurer of the American Legion Auxiliary.

The Ervin A. Borlick Unit #1109, the 4th District, and the First Division are most proud to support Marybeth Revoir for the Office of Department Treasurer 2024-2025 and request your favorable consideration of her candidacy.

Tina Abdelnour - Candidate for Department Historian

Tina Abdelnour is a Paid-Up-For-Life member of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Illinois. Her Eligibility is through her husband, Retired Navy, Terry Abdelnour who is also very active in the American Legion. Her father, Richard Van Cleave, retired Navy and her son, Richard Abdelnour, Navy Veteran also served in the military and belong to the American Legion. Her mom, Lonnie Van Cleave, her daughter, Christiana Abdelnour and her two granddaughters, Hayden and Riley Freeman belong to her Auxiliary Unit 635 in Normal, IL.

Tina has held the positions of Unit President for (7) years, 12th District President and 2nd Division President. She has held many committee chairmanships at all levels including (2) positions at the National Level. She has been the National Central Division Junior Activities Chairman and Children & Youth Chairman.

Her endorsement is from her Unit 635, Normal, IL.



Sue Johnson—Candidate for Department Historian

Sue Johnson has been a member of the ALA for 16 years. She is currently serving as 2nd Division president, and has been a president for her unit and district. She has served as the Department Chairman of National Security, bringing awareness to TAPS. For the last five years, as head of Children and Youth, she has been expanding participation in the Special Olympics, as well as increasing the number of participants. Due to her efforts, we now assist in winter, summer and tennis games.

Sue's participation in leadership classes, held at Department on writing reports,

has earned her the National Best Department Children and Youth awards, twice, for Central Division. She has been described as a mover and a shaker, as she remains a strong advocate for veteran and active military families. She is a dedicated ALA member ready to serve the four pillars of our organization and more, and she won't hesitate to jump right in and help. Sue Johnson is an eligible member, through her husband Dave during the Vietnam Conflict, and has been endorsed by her Unit, District, and 2nd Division.

Sue taught P.E. (physical education) and Adapted P.E., for students with disabilities. She also taught dance, social studies, kindergarten, preschool, and coached many sports. Her passions include, crafts, flowers, gourmet cooking, and more. As historian, she will make it her duty to write the stories of men and women veterans who dedicated their lives to this country, because they are the heart and soul of our ALA organization. "That's her story and she's sticking to it".

Pam Ray-Candidate for National President

Pam Ray is a 68-year member of the Illinois American Legion Auxiliary and served as Department President in 2010-2011. Pam has served the National Organization in the following chairmanships: Girl State/Nation, Junior Activities (2), National Security, Membership (2 COVID years), Constitution and Bylaws, Children and Youth, and is currently serving as Veteran's Affairs and Rehabilitation Chairman. She has also served as National Executive Committeewoman, a member of the National ALA Girls State Committee, Vice Chairman Public Relations, National Vice Chairman Junior Activities Committee, and National Vice Chairman Americanism Committee. Pam is the Leading Candidate for National Vice President for the 2024-2025



year. This is the next step towards becoming National President. Pam is asking for the Department endorsement for the high office of National Vice President. Her eligibility is through her father, WWII and Korean veteran, Past Department Commander, Clay Lofton.

Pam has received the endorsement of Urbana Unit #71, 19th District and 4th Division, and we ask that you endorse our candidate for National President.





LEADERSHIP CLASSES AT DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

Wednesday, July 10, 2024

"Let Us Lead the Way To Best Serve Veterans, the Real Superheroes"

We are again going to have separate classes so members can attend the class or classes they find most beneficial. Members need to register in advance so that we have enough materials for all attendees. Return this snip sheet to Department Leadership Chairman Cathy Zito, 3228 Sunset Lane, Franklin Park, IL, 60131, email it to ilmembership@ilala.org, or sign up online at www.ilala.org/leadership.html, by **June 21, 2024**

Name			Phone
11:30 am	n – 12:15 pm		
	Room 1	Unit Finances	Marybeth Revoir & Sharon Conatser
12:30 pm	n - 1:30 pm		
	Room 1	Being a Team Leader	Pam Ray
		•	level. Find out how to work your chairmanship, nit, District, and Division successful thru teamwork
_	Room 2	Beyond the Chairmanship	Jill Layton & Pat Sienkiewicz
		You know how to write the re program to put in those repor	ports, now let us tell you what counts for each ts
	Room 3	Social Media Tips and Techr	niques Angie Mulligan
		Learn some tips and tricks to engage our members but the	harness the power of Social Media to not only general public as well.
1:45 pm	– 2:45 pm		
	Room 1	Being a Team Leader	Pam Ray
		•	level. Find out how to work your chairmanship, nit, District, and Division successful thru teamwork
	Room 2	Beyond the Chairmanship	Jill Layton & Pat Sienkiewicz
		You know how to write the re program to put in those repor	ports, now let us tell you what counts for each ts.
	Room 3	Social Media Tips and Techr	<u>iiques</u> Angie Mulligan
		Learn some tips and tricks to a engage our members but the g	harness the power of Social Media to not only general public as well.
3:00 pm	– 3:45 pm		
	Ballroom	Leadership with National Provident	esident Lisa Williamson

American Legion Auxiliary Department Convention July 2024 Department Convention at a Glance

Wed. July 10

Leadership breakouts - Beginning at 11:30 am, Abraham Lincoln Hotel, 2nd Floor, Freeport Room

Special Presentation by National President Lisa Williamson – 3:00 pm

Credential Registration - 2:00-6:00 pm

Flag Registration – 4:30-6:00

Basket & Wine and Shine drop off at the Wyndham Hotel, mezzanine level -2:30-5:00 pm Department Board of Directors Meeting -7:00 at the Abraham Lincoln Hotel, Ottawa Room

(Attendees: Dept. Officers, Division and District Presidents, Chairmen, Past Department Presidents only)

Thursday, July 11

Registration – 7:00am-8:30am

Display Room – 7:00-8:15

Convention Opening – 8:30 am

Gold Star/Past Presidents Parley Dinner - 6:30 pm, Wyndham Hotel Ballroom

Basket Raffle - 4:00-6:30 pm - Wyndham Hotel

Wine and Shine Fundraiser - 4:00-6:30 pm - Wyndham Hotel

Friday, July 12

Convention begins at 8:30 am

Quarter Auction - Doors open 1:30 pm, Wyndham Hotel Ballroom

American Legion Freedom Fest - 6:00-10:00 pm

Saturday, July 13

Joint Memorial Service 8:00 am at the Convention Center

Joint Poppy Poster Presentation immediately following the Memorial Service

ALA Convention resumes 15 minutes after Poppy Presentation

Installation of 2024-2025 officers – 1:30 pm

American Legion Family Reception for 2024 and 2025 officers – Immediately following ALA installation, Rooms B11-BCD BoS Center

Commanders and President Dinner, Wyndham Ballroom

National Security Chairman Jill Layton

ShipThrifty

I picked up a flyer which said that everybody that ships care packages should know about ShipThrifty.com. Shipthrifty's free online tools allow you to create and print shipping labels and customs forms quickly and easily. You save money, save time & hassles, and it is universally trusted. ShipThrifty says: Save Lives, Send Care Packages. 1) Raise Awareness. Bring the community together to support our service members and join the Legion in its mission to combat veteran and service member suicide. 2) Boost Morale. Care packages make a difference in the lives of those who serve. Ship a taste of home and spread the message where it truly matters. 3) Be The One. Plan a packing party, pack boxes, and make an impact on the lives of others. Be The One to support a service member today. <u>contacdtus@shipthrifty.com</u> 800-544-4992, <u>www.calendly.com/shipthrifty</u>

CERT - Community Emergency Response Team

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program educates volunteers about disaster preparedness for the hazards that may occur where they live. CERT trains volunteers in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety; light search and rescue; team organization; disaster medical operations; and offers a consistent, nationwide approach to volunteer training and organization that professional responders can rely on during disaster situations, allowing them to focus on more complex tasks. For more information, see if there is a CERT program in your county. You may also contact your County Health Department for possible information. If you do not have a CERT program in your county, may you be the one to start this program!

POW/MIA

American public support is critical to achieving the National League of Families of American Prisoners & Missing in Southeast Asia's goal: the fullest possible accounting for those still missing and repatriation of all recoverable remains of those who died serving our nation during the Vietnam War. Right now, Illinois has 65 missing and unaccounted for in Southeast Asia. Visit the DPAA website: <u>http://www,dpaa.mil/</u> for a listing, by name, of the missing and unaccounted for. Become informed - visit the League's website or follow them on Facebook. Educate - Distribute facts about the League POW/MIA Updates, arrange for POW/MIA speakers and/or ceremonies; fly the POW/MIA flag. Write to Congress urging bipartisan support for US priority on accounting for America's missing: Write to: Embassy of Vietnam 1233 20th Street, NW Suite 400, Washington, DC 20035; and Embassy of Laos, 2222 S Street, NW Washington, DC 20008; and Embassy of Cambodia 4530 16th Street, NW Washington, DC 20011, and thank them for their efforts to date and urge increased cooperation in accounting for missing Americans.

Current National Security Legislation:

Some of the legislation The American Legion is supporting deals with our active military and their families. The American Legion encourages Congress to robustly fund VAs' suicide prevention outreach budget and peer support programs. *PFC Joseph P. Dwyer Peer Support Program (HR 2768) and VA Zero Suicide Demonstration Act (HR 1639)*

Data from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health shows that in 2021, approximately 2.8 million veterans experienced an illicit drug or alcohol use disorders, with 92.4 receiving treatment. More must be done to ensure our military and veterans have access to the effective treatments they desire. *TBI and PTSD Treatment Act (HR 105)*

The US military's greatest resources are servicemembers and their families. Factors contributing to quality of life include proper compensation, appropriate housing, quality healthcare, reasonably priced commissaries, and access to childcare services. The American Legion urges Congress to pass legislation to expand access to affordable childcare, increase appropriations for military construction projects (including barracks and family housing), and ensuring timely access to mental healthcare. *Military Housing Readiness Council Act (S 2047)*

US Coast Guard personnel carry out vital national security missions. Because the Coast Guard is under the Department of Homeland Security instead of DOD, its members are more likely to experience pay interruptions during prolonged government shutdowns. The common threat of shutdowns brings severe and unnecessary hardship on these men, women, and their families. *Pay Our Coast Guard Parity Act (HR 2693)*

(National Security cont'd on pg. 16)

American Legion Auxiliary Illini Girls State

Attention Units!

The 83rd Session of ALA Illini Girls State is only weeks away. It is not too late to submit applications. Applications are on the department website, in the fall packet, and included in this copy of the *ALA Today (page 14)*. Check in with your local schools and junior members to find those interested delegates.

Session starts on **Sunday June 16th** and concludes on **Saturday June 22nd**. The delegates will receive their paperwork via email. Units please check in with your delegates and make sure they get the paperwork and they get the "read and return" uploaded into the registration system. Delegates need to attend an orientation or complete the online orientation on the ALA IGS website. https://www.alaigs.org/

Units and Districts please let me know if you host an orientation for your delegates as we would like to share those on the ALA IGS website and on our social media platforms. District and Division Chairmen send me the information to <u>sarahrichards@hotmail.com</u>.

Check our ALA IGS social media pages as Dean Kristie has shared our ALA IGS Amazon wish list of supplies that we use during the session. We welcome all donations. Also be sure to follow our social media pages as each Friday has highlighted Alumni. The social media pages are updated throughout the session so you can follow along.

Working together we will increase our numbers and have a wonderful 83rd session!

Sarah Wyckoff Illini Girls State Director 2024



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2024 APPLICATION FOR ATTENDANCE AT AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY ILLINI GIRLS STATE Sponsored by American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Illinois					
		Please PRINT Legibly	y and Use a D	ark Pen	
Applicant's	Name				
	(Last)	(First)	(Prefer	red name)	Age
Address				Р	hone
	(Street)	(Town)		(Zip Code)	
Applicant's	Personal E-mail Address DO NOT	use a school email :			
Are vou an	American Legion Auxiliary Men	nber?(Yes or No) Is voi	ır Mother, Father	Brother or Sister	currently serving in the Armed
-	# Volunteer Hours serving				
					-
Name and A	ddress of Parents or Guardian				
	(Street)	(Town)		(Zip Code)	(Cell Phone/Work phone)
Parent's em	ail address				
	******		X INT*******	************	*****
		TO BE FILLED OUT I	SY UNIT		
Sponsoring	Auxiliary Unit	Nam	e of President of t	he sponsoring Unit	
Address		City			Phone
				(Zip Code)	
Approved by	у	Secretary/ALAIG	S Chr. of Unit No.	Phone	
District No	OR approved by ALAIO	GS Director			
The alternat	e is				
	(Name) rtment, American Legion Auxiliary, P.0 t accompany this application if not for		02-1426, to be receiv		
	CATION MUST BE COMPLETED) (APPLICATION		L, GUIDANCE CO	UNSELOR OR HOM	E SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR
Name of appl	icant			D	ATE
Applicant is	a member of the current junior cla	ss of		High Sch	ool. School District
1.	Is student a Junior in the 2023-2024	school year?			
2.	Is student a legal resident of The Un Does student have good character?	uited States?			
4.	Does student nave good character: Does student possess outstanding qu	alities of leadership and good citiz	enship?		
 Signed			Title		
Counselor's F	Email Address:		(please	nninf)	
	****			-	******
Th	e undersigned parent or guardian of		(Name of Applicar	ut)	
June 16-22, 2 and all claims	ion of the instruction and training to be 024 does hereby release and discharge 5, demands, suits, actions, or courses of dance of said American Legion Auxilia	the American Legion Auxiliary, D action which may, can or shall hav	Legion Auxiliary Illi epartment of Illinois, we by reason of illness	ni Girls State, to be he its officers, agents, ins , injury, or accident in	tructors and employees, from any
	1 1 1	2022 2024			
Si	gnedday of	2023/2024	(Signat	ure of Parent or Guard	ian)

Special Olympics Summer Games Children & Youth Chairman Sue Johnson

A change to the layout at ISU is changing some of our remote tents again. Our main hospitality is staying the same in the concessions area under Horton field house. Need help June 7th and 8th to serve these great Athletes (4,000+), Coaches, Parents and Volunteers. We also will have the majority of riders with us. There will be 6 riders and bikes and 2 volunteers to hand out some of our dry goods at Olympic town.

A list of the new foods that will be accepted can be found on page 16, and we need your help because they need to have product for both days. Due to changes from Special Olympics we lost some of our corporate sponsors that helped us in the past. We greatly appreciate your assistance and for your help in many ways, just in case it is crazy those days and I don't get a chance to say something. We will need preps, snack bagging, and ones to hand out. Need to book your hotel now!

Please collect and bring action heroes or action hero stuff animals for the riders to hand out. Thank you, please call if you need us to pick up or please bring it to Department Headquarters. Sue: 815-222-3983 or Dave 815-520-4643.

Send back to Sue or Dave Johnson 140 E. Russell St., Rockton, II. 61072

June 7th

June 7thI will be attending.June 8thI will be attending.

Both days 8 am-4 pm is the times.

I will bring food product or donate food product.

I will donate monies for products.

Constitution and Bylaws Changes

The proposed changes for the Constitution and Bylaws will be sent out in the May Unit President Mailing. Department Chairmen, District and Division Presidents, and Department Officers will receive it by email after the mailing goes out.

Special Olympics Food Needs Children & Youth Chairman Sue Johnson

Veggie Straws	Veggie Chips	Veggie Puffs
Indiv variety pks	Indiv variety pks	Indiv variety pks
Popchips Variety Indiv pks	Quaker Rice Crisps Multi pk	Nature Valley Crunchy Granola snack mix Indiv pk
Raisin Indiv pk	Hummus single16 pks	Kind Minis bars Varieties
Bare baked crunch Variety pks	Pirate's Bootie chedder puffs Indiv pks	Snyder pretzel Indiv pk 100 cal.
Sun chips Variety Indiv pks	Baked Lays Reg & BBQ Indiv pks	Terra Veggie chips - we have to bag
Green/Black Olives	Archer mini sticks turkey/ beef	Beef/Turkey Jerky - watch calories
Dry Roasted peanuts w/sea salt	GFS Indiv PB pks	Mount Olive Pickles sliced
Fruit- strawberries, blueberries, pineapples, grapes	Trail mix 240 or less	Veggies- Broccoli, Cauliflower, bell peppers, variety, cherry tomatoes, raddish, baby carrots,

IMPORTANT DONATION DATES

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

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 Family Sweepstakes Ouarter Auction The Finance Committee will once again host the You will soon be receiving tickets in the mail for the Quarter Auction. What is a quarter auction? If the American Legion Family Sweepstakes summer value of the item is under \$15, you will bid one drawing. The drawing will be held at Department quarter if you want the item. If the value is \$16 - \$30, Convention in Springfield. There are many cash your bid will be two quarters. If the item's value is prizes, with the grand prize being \$10, 000! You do not need to be present to win. over \$31, the bid is three quarters. You purchase paddles which have numbers on them. If your paddle This is a unique opportunity to help and support the number is drawn and you placed a bid, you win! You important programs offered by the Department of could win an incredible prize for 75 cents or less. Illinois. Please return the tickets along with your There will be tokens available if you don't have donation in the envelope provided in your mailing. quarters! Every single gift is vital and each gift is appreciated by all of us and by those we serve. Date: Friday, July 12th Time: 1:30 p.m. Where: Wyndham Hotel Ballroom Good Luck to all who participate and a very sincere Come enjoy an afternoon of fun winning nice Thank You

(National Security cont'd from pg. 12)

prizes!

Military personnel stationed overseas in support of US interests and our alliances provide a key role in deterring adversaries from a myriad of actions. However, major issues involving access to various types of healthcare continue. The lack of access to certain types of care limits overseas assignments and contributes to military families being separated for extended periods of time. *Health Care Fairness for Military Families Act (HR 1045)*

The American Legion urges Congress to direct modernization of Transition Assistance Program (TAP) delivery using technology and performance data to ensure the DOD delivers a successful program. The creation of a mobile application, providing service members with an extensive toolkit of on-demand transition-related content would improve participation and increase the benefit of transition resources available. Delivering effective transition assistance will ensure a veteran's proper reintegration from active duty to civilian life and reduce negative experiences. *VET-TEC Authorization Act of 2023 (HR 1669)*

You will be amazed at how easy it is to contact your elected officials! Go to <u>https://www.votervoice.net/</u> <u>AmericanLegion/home</u>. On the right side of the page you will enter your information. Where there are alerts, you will receive notification. Or on the same page, click on the Agenda you want to support. It will have the letter and all the information for you. All you do is hit send!!! Oh, and send a copy of your letter and a copy of any reply you receive to your District and Department Legislative Chairman!

OFFICIAL CALL FOR THE 103rd DEPARTMENT CONVENTION July 11-13, 2024

President Abraham Lincoln Hotel a Doubletree by Hilton Springfield, Illinois The 103rd Department Convention of the American Legion Auxiliary is hereby called, and, in conformity with Article VI, Section 2, of the Department Constitution, which provides that the annual Department Convention, if feasible, shall be held at the same time and place as that of The American Legion, or otherwise, as determined by the Department Board of Directors. The American Legion, Department of Illinois is meeting in Springfield, Illinois.

PURPOSE

The Convention is called for the purpose of electing officers for the ensuing year and delegates and alternates for National Convention, amending the Department Bylaws, receiving reports of Department Officers and Committees, and for the transaction of such other business as may be brought before it. REPRESENTATION

Representation at the Convention shall be in accordance with the provisions of the Department Constitution, Article VI, Section 3. Delegates to the Department Convention shall be as follows: Each Unit shall be entitled to one delegate and one alternate; and for every fifty members or major fraction thereof, one other delegate and alternate shall be allowed, provided the current dues as fixed by the Bylaws have been received by the Department Treasurer thirty days prior to the date of the annual Convention. Units organized within this thirtyday period shall be entitled to representation in the Convention. Other voting members shall be the Department Officers, the Past Department Presidents, the Division Presidents, the Division Presidents-elect, the District Presidents, the District Presidents-elect, the Presidents and Presidents-elect of County Organizations, the two Department Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms, the Chairmen of Standing and Convention committees, Holiday Gifts Chairman, Hospital Service & Service to Veterans Chairman, and Department Hospital Representatives and Service to Veterans Representatives at the Illinois Veterans Homes. ALTERNATES

Each Unit is entitled to elect a number of alternates equal to the number of delegates to which such Unit is entitled. Alternates will have the power to vote only in the absence of the regular delegates. The selection of alternates to represent absent delegates is a matter of decision within the respective Unit.

Alternates must be listed on the Credentials Certificate.

CREDENTIAL DISTRIBUTION

The number of delegates to which each Unit is entitled shall be determined by the membership records of June 13, 2024, as shown on the books of the Department. Credentials of properly certified delegates and alternates will be distributed as follows: Wednesday, July 10, 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.; Thursday, July 11, 7:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. If arriving after 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, credentials may be picked up in the Department Convention Office.

Credentials MUST BE PICKED UP by 11:00 a.m. on Friday, July 10 to vote.

Registration will be conducted in the Pre-Function Foyer of the President Abraham Lincoln Hotel a Doubletree by Hilton, 701 E. Adams St, Springfield, IL until 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, July 11th. DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES REGISTRATION FEE

The registration fee of ten dollars (\$10.00) per delegate must accompany the Credential Certificate before delegates can be registered and credentials given out. <u>COMPLETED AND CERTIFIED CREDENTIAL</u> CERTIFICATE MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OFFICE BY 8:00 AM ON

<u>THURSDAY, JULY 11, 2024.</u> Any member whose Credential Certificate is received after 8:00 am on Thursday, July 11, 2024, will attend the Convention as a Guest. A registration fee of ten dollars (\$10.00) per alternate must be paid for all alternates attending Convention meetings. Alternates must be listed on the Credential Certificate, whether attending or not. All registered Delegates and Alternates will receive a Book of Reports when picking up their badges.

GUESTS

All guests attending Convention meetings must pay a \$10.00 registration fee to receive a badge and Book of Reports. Book of Reports will be available at a cost of \$10.00 at the registration table for those wishing to purchase extra books.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolutions to be presented at the Department Convention must be typewritten in triplicate, signed by two delegates and filed with the Department Managing Director before they will be considered by the Convention Resolution Committee. They should be sent in advance to Department Headquarters – if late, they must be filed no later than **10:00 a.m., Friday, July 10th** in the Department Convention Office.

DIVISION CAUCUSES Caucus time and locations, if deemed necessary, will be announced on Thursday, July 11th . ELECTIONS An election for Department Officers, Delegates and Alternates to National Convention will be held Friday at approximately 11:30 a.m. in the Ballroom. <u>ALL DELEGATES MUST BE SEATED IN THEIR</u> <u>DELEGATION PRIOR TO 11:00 A.M. AS DOORS WILL BE CLOSED AND NO ONE WILL BE</u> <u>ALLOWED TO ENTER OR LEAVE UNTIL VOTING IS FINISHED.</u> PROCESSIONAL OF COLORS Processional of Colors is limited to District, Division and Department Flags. Stands must be brought for each set of flags. All flags <u>must be registered</u> prior to opening of Convention: Wednesday, July 10th, 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. or Thursday, July 11th, 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. in the Mary Todd Room of the President Abraham Lincoln Hotel.						
GOLD STAR/PAST PRES	SIDENTS P	ARLEY DI	NNER			
DATE: Thursday, July 11 th TIME: 6:30 p.m. (Doors open at 6:00 p.m.) PLACE: Wyndham Hotel Ballroom						
Please be sure to check mark your Gold Star Members as specia	al seating and gifts v	vill be provided	to them.			
Reservations mu	<u>st be receive</u>	d July 1				
Mail check to: American Legion Auxiliary, PO Box 1426, Bloomir Charge a credit card: call 309-663-9366	ngton, IL 61702-142	26				
Date: UNIT NAME:	Unit No	o: Distri	ict No:			
Name of person picking up tickets						
Entree: Maple Glazed Pork Loin, French Onion Chicken, Cheese	e Ravioli					
Please LIST below ALL those attending dinner. Please CHECK MARK the names of GOLD STAR MEMBERS.						
Theuse Chick Mark the humes of GOLD STAR MEMBERS.	Chicken	Pork	Pasta	Unit #		
TOTAL tickets for Gold Star/Past Presidents Parley Dinner	@ \$ 50.0	00 each	\$	_		

VA&R Needs!

Marion VA:

- Underwear, sweatpants, socks, slippers, shoes (M & F clothing)
- Fishing items
- Bowling Gift Cards
- Assorted Model Kits
- Full Size Personal Hygiene Products

Debbie Ferguson, Rep

Hines VA:

- 3 in 1 Shampoo, Conditioner, and Bodywash
- Men and Women's Deodorant
- Alcohol-Free Mouthwash
- Toothpaste
- Back Scratchers
- Men and Women's Underwear

Pat Kowalski, Rep

Jesse Brown VA:

- Shower Gel, Shampoo, Lotion, Roll On Deodorant (All Travel Size)
- Playing Cards
- Large Print Word Searches
- Tide Pods with 2 Dryer sheets in a baggie
- Late summer start collecting calendars.
- NEW PROJECT-" Emergency Transport Funds" donations of funds – Make check out to Jesse Brown V.A. – in memo wrote Emergency transport. Make a copy for your record. Can mail check to Rep- J. Keenan-917 Central Matteson, IL 60443. ***this is used for the Veterans, who are discharge late at night from ER or from the Hospital bed. Social Service will call for a ride to their home. (this is for the safety of our Veterans)

Jo Ann Keenan, Rep

John Cochran:

- Men's Tennis Shoes (Size 9-13)
- Men's Jeans (All Sizes)
- Baseball Caps
- Travel size toiletries

- Sweatshirts and Sweatpants (M, L, XL)
- Marcia Ziska, Rep

LaSalle VA:

- Birdseed
- Crystal Light Packets
- Punch Balloons
- Wireless Headphones with Optical Plug
- 12x12 Quick Frames from Hobby Lobby Laurinda Kidd, Rep

Jefferson Barracks:

- Men's Summer Shorts (Size 34-42)
- Ladies Summer Shorts (Size 12-24)
- Summer shirts, Ladies Tops, and T-shirts
- New Men's Tennis Shoes (Size 9-13)
- New Ladies Tennis Shoes (Size 7-10)
- Shower Shoes (all sizes)
- Activity Books, and Magazines (New)
- Crafts, Pens and Paper, Adult Coloring Books Barbara Rose, Rep

Illiana VAMC:

- Apartment items: linens, cleaning supplies, shower curtains, trashcans, personal hygiene, pantry items, kitchenware, etc.
- Gift cards (DQ or other fast food)
- Craft items: paint by number, fuzzy posters, car models, string art, craft kits.
- 3-in-1 body wash, stick deodorant, non-alcohol mouthwash, shaving cream, Chapstick, razors, and snacks.

Patti Williamson, Rep

Lovell FHCC:

- Ceramic supplies
- Toiletries
- Bingo Machine and prizes

LaVera Davis, Rep

Children & Youth

Chairman Sue Johnson

Calling on all super heroes from Illinois! On July 10th after leadership training we will be filling 50 sac bags for the pilot program for National Children and Youth. I am asking each division to bring the following items to go in the bag. If your division is able to collect the items have your Division chair contact me. Please have someone bring those items that day that is coming Wednesday day. Need all the help I can get that day to fill the bags, Thanks! Ghost Spidey Sue

First Division- 6 color paints sets and brush, bath bombs for kids, bags of chips, gum, sunglasses, and mini Lego block animals.

Second Division- scholastic books 15 middle school- high school, 3 baby to age 5, 32 elementary, bubbles, trail mix and Mac and cheese cups, fidgets.

Third Division- writing stationary, color pens and or flair, play doh or color mini putty, granola bars and Ramen noodles, card game.

Fourth Division- little puzzles, little mini heroes, themed activity, custom designed symbol socks (taco), books/word search, book markers, bendable men/ military blitz pull back toys, kind bars and Capri suns.

Fifth Division- jump ropes, hot wheels, sticky hands, kid stamps, stickers, bouncing balls, individual bag fruit snacks and goldfish crackers, color crayons and books.

Department Convention Housing Information

"Serving Veterans, The REAL Superheroes" is calling all delegates, alternates and guests to attend the Department of Illinois ALA Convention, July 10-13, 2024 in Springfield, IL. Housing and Convention meetings will be in the President Abraham Lincoln a Doubletree by Hilton Hotel, 701 E. Adams St, Springfield.

<u>Reservations can be made over the phone by calling 217-544-8800 or by going to the ALA website</u> (ilala.org) and clicking on the Department Convention Hotel Reservations Link in the "Important Links" box. Please mention you are with the American Legion Auxiliary if you call to book your reservation.</u>

Deadline for reservations is June 18, 2024.

Room rates are: Standard Room - \$119.00 plus tax

Make your reservations early and plan on attending!



The American Legion Department of Illinois Family cordially invites you to the annual COMMANDERS & PRESIDENT COMMANDERS & PRESIDENT

honoring



Department Commander

Delmar Buske



Department President Angie Golightly



Velachinen Oommana Michael Vogar

13, 202

Cocktails at 6:00 p.m. Dinner at 7:00 p.m. Main Ballroom of the Wyndham Springfield

Name:				_ Division#
Address:				District#
City:	State:	Zip:	Phone#	
No. of Person(s)	or Table(s)	(For ta	bles of eight (8), please ser	nd a list of names with this form)
(New York Strip @ \$69 x	_) - (Pan Seared Air	line Chicken @ \$	55 x) - (Whiskey (Glazed Salmon @ \$52 x)
All dinners are served with	chef's choice of vegetabl	le, Yukon gold mas	hed potatoes, tossed salad,	rolls & butter and dessert.
Check Total \$	Make ch	necks payable to:	The American Legion	Department of Illinois
To guarantee your reserva				natser 2305 Rebecca Dr.
	Champaign, IL	61821 no later tha	n June 21, 2024.	
For questions or speci	al dietary needs: Sharo	on Conatser (C)21	7/869-6211; or email: s	sconatser44@live.com

American	Legion Auxili	ary Membersh	ip Report	- 5/1/2024
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District	Division	President	Units	Goal	Total Members	Goal %
21	4	Juliana Umstattd	16	581	598	102.93%
7	1	Bonnie Sheirok	3	3 143 137		95.80%
18	4	Clarissa Mennenga	28	1167	1106	94.77%
22	5	Marge Leezy	26	985	920	93.40%
24	5	Jane Engelkes	14	604	562	93.05%
13	2	April Eberle	15	558	516	92.47%
11	2	Laurel Hickman	34	1848	1708	92.42%
8	1	Helen Stewart	11	626	577	92.17%
12	2	Mary Brubach	25	1693	1531	90.43%
23	5	Mary Madson	25	1537	1387	90.24%
16	3	Jodith Lewis	25	1253	1120	89.39%
15	3	Michelle Gorsage	27	1013	903	89.14%
17	4	Marsha Haag	35	1454	1296	89.13%
19	4	Edith Hall	33	1910	1692	88.59%
9	1	Nancy Stevens	7	586	515	87.88%
4	1	Gailwyn Starr	7	213	186	87.32%
10	2	Karen Stetina	13	580	503	86.72%
25	5	Doris Bartolotti	15	891	762	85.52%
5	1	Juanita LoGiudice	11	366	313	85.52%
14	3	Doris Kilkenny	12	620	524	84.52%
20	3	Sophia Reavley	22	704	587	83.38%
3	1	Gloria Rush	7	145	98	67.59%
2	1		4	88	57	64.77%
		Headquarters 2910	1	550	411	74.73%
		TOTALS	416	20115	0	89.53%
		Department Stretch		2375		
		Illinois' National Goal		22460	18009	80.18%
	4	Suzie Weiss		5112	4692	91.78%
	2	Sue Johnson		4679	4258	91.00%
	5	April Parkhurst		4017	3631	90.39%
	3	Catherine Reavley		3590	3134	87.30%
	1	Cindy Hall		2167	1883	86.89%
	-	Goal Units	101			00000770
		Pam Corbin			Angie Golightly	
		Department Membership			Department President	



ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

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

American Legion Auxiliary

 \star C community of volunteers \star

Serving veterans, military, and their families

Dates to Remember

May 27Department office closed - Memorial DayJune 16-22ALA Illini Girls State - Charleston, ILJune 302024-2025 Unit Officers List Due to DepartmentJuly 4Department office closed - Independence DayJuly 10Leadership Classes at Department ConventionJuly 11-13Department Convention - Springfield, ILAugust 24-29National Convention - New Orleans, LA