



ARLENE HOLTGRAVE

American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Illinois President



Building a Brighter
Future for
Our Veterans

2024 ILLINOIS 2025

BUILDING A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR OUR VETERANS

Table of Contents

Presidents Message	pg. 2-4
TAL Message	pg. 2
SAL Message	pg. 3
Membership Message	pg. 3-4
Legislative	pg. 4-5
Gold Star	pg. 5
Important Information	pg. 6
Important Donation Dates	pg. 7
Caravan Schedule	pg. 8
Christmas Greetings	pg. 9
Junior Activities	pg. 10
Poppy Order Form	pg. 11-12
Important Messages	pg. 13
Children & Youth/PPP	pg. 14
Easter Gift Program	pg. 15
VA & R Needs	pg. 16
Pilgrimage Brochure	pg. 17-18
Snip Sheet	pg. 19-20
Membership Report	pg. 23

Utica's Veteran's Day Parade & Marion VA Tour



(Top Left) President Arlene Holtgrave being presented a plaque at the Egyptian Jamboree Banquet.



(Top Right) President Arlene Holtgrave with Army recruiters in Utica area at Veterans breakfast.



(Bottom Left) American Legion Family Leadership attending a tour of the Marion Illinois VA Facility.

(Bottom Right) From L to R: TAL Commander's Aide Peter Faraci, Department Adjutant Josh Thielen, American Legion Commander Joe Lampert, President Arlene Holtgrave, SAL Commander Rick Allen, Sr. Vice Commander Roy Smith, and TAL Sr. Vice Commander's Aide Chris School.



Arlene
Holtgrave



Joe
Lampert

December already!! Christmas is coming! Lots of exciting things will be happening! But first, Let's talk about November.

Veteran's Day was observed for several days, which made it possible to attend many events. Utica, November 3, was a rainy day but the parade went on as planned. Kaskaskia College, November 6, 2024, had breakfast for Veterans and a program ENDURING FREEDOM CELEBRATION. The guest speaker, Angie Zahn, is a facilitator for spousal support groups for veterans with PTSD. The elementary schools show great pride in their program recognizing Veterans that were present. November 11, Albers was the town for Clinton County's full day of festivities starting early morning with mass, lunch, speakers and parade and music entertainment to end the day. Then it was off to Monticello to end the day with their parade.

The Haven Jamboree is a busy weekend, November 15-17. It's a major fund raiser for the Haven on Crab Orchard Lake. The Haven is a day resort for Veterans mainly from Marion VA facility, but anyone is welcome. The tour of the Marion VA hospital was phenomenal The tour was over 2 hours and they showed us all the remodeling and soon to be opened areas. It was amazing! The care that will be provided will be exceptional and very modern. The dinner and awards on Saturday evening was well attended. Thank you to all the ALA officers and everyone that celebrated the weekend and helped support this 5th Division project for the 87th annual Haven Jamboree.

It's the time of year for the VA Christmas Gift shops. Help is always needed. Watch the Auxiliary

Please take a moment and donate to my special project - The Auxiliary Emergency Fund!

calendar for the
(Continued on page 4)

Greetings,

November has come and gone in a flash. I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving! I had the pleasure of attending the Utica Veterans Day Parade as well as the Piatt County Veterans Day Parade with President Arlene, Commander Rick, Sr. Vice Roy and Adjutant Josh. I also attended the 3rd District Military Ball, which featured PNC Marty Conatser and National Vice President Pam Ray as guest speakers. Our Department Leadership team accompanied by SAL National Vice Commander Butch Ray & TAL National Vice Commander Roger Mathison, toured the Marion VA to start The Haven Jamboree. A lot of progress has been made at the VA since our last visit. The Jamboree was very well attended by the ENTIRE LEGION FAMILY!! I also participated in Pam Ray's fundraiser (hosted by the 4th Division). If you want to know what "LL" means, just ask me! This month's topic is Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation (VA&R):

Proposed 2025 Legislative Priorities from Benefits Policy Team

- Safeguarding Benefits earned by Veterans
- Ensuring Fully Implementation of the PACT Act
- Allowing Veterans to Switch Appeals Option without Penalty
- Bridging Gaps between CHAMPVA & TRICARE TYA
- Ensuring Equal Access to Healthcare for Permanent & Total Veterans Overseas

I wish each one of you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



**Rick
Allen**



**Membership
Chairman**

Joyce Huelsmann

Greetings from the Detachment!

Hoping everyone had a great Thanksgiving with family or visiting with a veteran as we move on what was a busy month. November was spent with the legion family with a parade at Utica, the Ottawa Veterans 16 year vigil for Veterans as Honor Guard, 17 District Pam Ray National President Benefit at Post 122 in Cullom, Illinois, and that night we were at the Military Ball at Alsip, Illinois. The next day I had a program to attend at the Pontiac Elks Club for the Veterans and on Monday, Veterans Day, I served as Honor Guard at the Tri-Point Jr High in Piper City for their program. After that I attended my grandson's program at Woodworth Elementary, then on to the Monticello Veterans night parade 61st year and back to Deland Post for Chili. On the 15th I went to Marion for the Egyptians Past Commanders Jamboree and a visit to the Marion VA. This was a great place and they are working hard for the Veterans to give them the services they need. There is one thing I have to mention, at their board meeting they always have an empty chair and it says (The Empty Chair, I wonder how we would react, if all our meetings there was an empty chair. Would we look away, or, possibly turn and stare. But why would we bother with an empty chair. If all it does is elicit a stare. Can an empty chair speak? Or convey thought? Or is it just empty and thus should never have been brought. But, what if the chair was an unspoken vet? could we ignore his presence. without feeling regret? it's a powerful thing the empty chair it does not have to speak , but we know it's there. As the chair can't speak it has no choice but to rely on us to become it's voice.) (Anonymous).

I was at Post 24 training and Joliet training as well. The Legion needs our help to stuff envelopes. It saves money to help keep dues down. Call the office for time and date and it also can add hours for CSR!!!! Remember to get your memberships in before December 31th and certifications. To everyone who has tickets yet to sell a detachment ticket would be a good gift. Remember Christmas season is coming soon. Keep our Veterans and the Sons on your mind. Let's make them Proud of us.

We are the American Legion family. We work together for the better good. May we be blessed this season. Together forever.

Happy December to all! I sure hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving with family and friends.

We have been busy collecting membership to get our construction site built for our veterans and active military. I was disappointed that the department did not reach the 49% goal by October 19; however, we did reach 56.93% two weeks later. We are stiving very hard to reach 75% by December 7. I hope all members are HELPING their membership chairman by getting out there and collecting those dues. All members are RECRUITERS!

I was fortunate to attend the 87th Annual Jamboree held at The Haven - the southern Illinois building and grounds for veterans to go and spend time. National Vice-President Pam Ray, guest speaker National Vice-Commander Roger Mathison, Department Commander Joe Lampert, Department Auxiliary President Arlene Holtgrave, and Department SAL Detachment Commander Rick Allen were among the dignitaries in attendance.

Department President Arlene Holtgrave, 5th Division President Judy Zimmermann, Department Membership Chairman Joyce Huelsmann, and 5th Division Membership Chairman Ann Flanagan are going into the 25th District in December in an attempt to help them with any problems they are dealing with.

As Department Membership Chairman, I am willing to attend any unit, district, or division meeting upon request.

I am looking forward to the Membership Caravan to be held January 9 thru 19 as a Legion family. Please check the dates and locations for a stop in your district or a location close to you that fits into your schedule. We

(Continued on page 4)

(President's Message cont'd from pg. 2)

dates or check with the Reps from the hospital close to you. Please attend as many as possible.

Check the ALA Today for dates and time for the January Family Caravan. There are lots of them and you can attend as many as you like. Be sure to bring MEMBERSHIP!!

I have dates open on my calendar. Contact me to attend a meeting, gift shop, fund raiser, etc.

I hope everyone has a Happy Thanksgiving! We all have something to be thankful for... Say a special prayer for our veterans and their families as the holidays approach.

So till next time with National President Trish Ward we will be "Leading the Way" ...as we are "Building a Brighter Future for our Veterans"...

HAPPY THANKSGIVING, BE SAFE, BE HEALTHY, and GOD BLESS AMERICA!!!

(Membership cont'd from pg. 3)

are looking forward to collecting any dues that are still outstanding BUT remember that if dues are not paid by December 31, a member can lose out on many benefits.

Christmas is rapidly approaching and everyone gets busy with family, friends, shopping, business/office parties, besides the everyday activities; BUT let us not forget about veterans who are not as lucky to be living at home and those actively deployed in the military.

Remember to keep Christ in Christmas and in your hearts and be kind to all!

MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Legislative Chairman Jill Layton

There is a National Legislative Committee Challenge. The challenge is for each Department and Division to have the highest percentage of correspondence numbers based on 2025 paid memberships each quarter in response to the Legion's Actions Alert.

- The Legion's quarterly report and Auxiliary's membership report data will be used to calculate percentages.
- Correspondence: The emails/letters sent to legislators when a member goes through the Action Alert located in the Grassroots Center.
- Correspondence Number: Each time a member sends email/letter, regardless of the number of recipients, one specific alert request will count as "1" for the Department.
- Department Membership: The number of 2025 paid members as of the end of the quarter (Membership Report nearest to quarter end).
- The quarterly Department and Division winners will be determined by highest percentage calculated by Correspondence
- Number divided by the Department membership.

(Legislative cont'd on pg. 5)

(Legislative cont'd from pg. 4)

- Year-end Department and Division winners will be calculated by combining the total Department correspondence numbers for the year divided by membership entered in the ALAMIS member database by July 26, 2025.



Scan the QR Code or click on this [link](#). It will take you directly to [votervoice.net](#). Once you are signed up, you can send correspondence on the Legion's agenda within seconds! Let them hear from you **often!!**

Gold Star

Chairman Debbie Hancock

Gold Star is a very SPECIAL program to honor mothers, spouses, sisters, and daughters whose loved ones were lost to death during service to their country.

Units are encouraged to search these family members out and invite them to join members of the American Legion Auxiliary. If your unit can afford it, perhaps you could pay their dues to honor them.

We will honor all Gold Star Members present at Department Convention on Thursday, July 10, 2025 at the Gold Star/Past Presidents Parley Dinner. What a wonderful way to show them we care. Details are forthcoming in ALA Today. A Gold Star member of the year will receive the Starr's Heartwarmers Plaque.

Entries for the two personal awards (2) to the Unit Chairmen submitting the best report and to the Unit member submitting the BEST poem. Both entries are due to this chairman by May 1, 2025.

For any other questions, please contact this chairman personally.

GOLD STAR members are SPECIAL, let's show them we CARE!



1st Division President Cathy Zito and Vice President Nancy Stevens visit Tattler Unit 973. Looks like a great group of Auxiliary members!

Reminders!

- There are **still** membership packets in the office. They will be sent out when the office receives the unit's 2024-2025 officer's list.
- Membership not received in the Department office by December 18th will receive a 2nd renewal notice around February 1st.
- Check the Snip sheet (pg. 19-20), there are so many great programs your unit can support. Our veterans and facilities are still in need.

ATTENTION: UNIT PRESIDENTS AND UNIT TREASURERS!!

Bonding fees are due to your District Treasurer.
This year it is \$16.50. Please send to your District Treasurer as soon as possible.
If you need Treasurer information, contact your District President or call the Department Office.

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: www.ilala.org, scroll down and select "Subscribe". You then can 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 in case you do not receive emails from us.

ATTENTION DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS MEMBERS

It is Illinois' turn to have a National Central Division Vice President. The election will take place at our Department Convention in July. We will announce our candidate at the caucus at National (2025) and they will be elected at the National Convention 2026 to serve for the 2026-2027 administrative year.

The candidate (s) will be in the ALA today May-June issue. They will follow the same deadline of having a picture and information to the office no later than April 1st.

If you have any questions, please notify the Department office.

Sharon Conatser executivesecretary@ilala.org 217-369-6211

Part-Time Bookkeeper Needed

The Department Office is looking for a part-time bookkeeper. 20 hours a week with more hours during peak times. Send your resume to executivesecretary@ilala.org if you are interested. Hope to have one in place by January 1, 2025.

There is a possibility that part of this could be remote.

Sharon Conatser
Managing Director/Department Executive Secretary

Team Illinois Items for Pam Ray!

Shirts/Cardigan: Small to XL \$55

2XL-4XL \$65

Buttons: \$2 each

We will be wearing them at installation in Tampa on August 27, 2025.

Get your order in now!!

Contact:

Sharon Conatser

Email: sconatser44@live.com Cell: 217-369-6211



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 Education Fund must be received for a unit to submit a candidate for an Education scholarship.

April 10: 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.

Congratulations to all the 100% Units as of 11/20/2024

Romeoville Unit #52 100.00%

Onarga Unit #551 104.55%

Mount Pulaski Unit #447 103.70%

Emington Unit #451 100.00%

Springfield Unit #809 100.00%

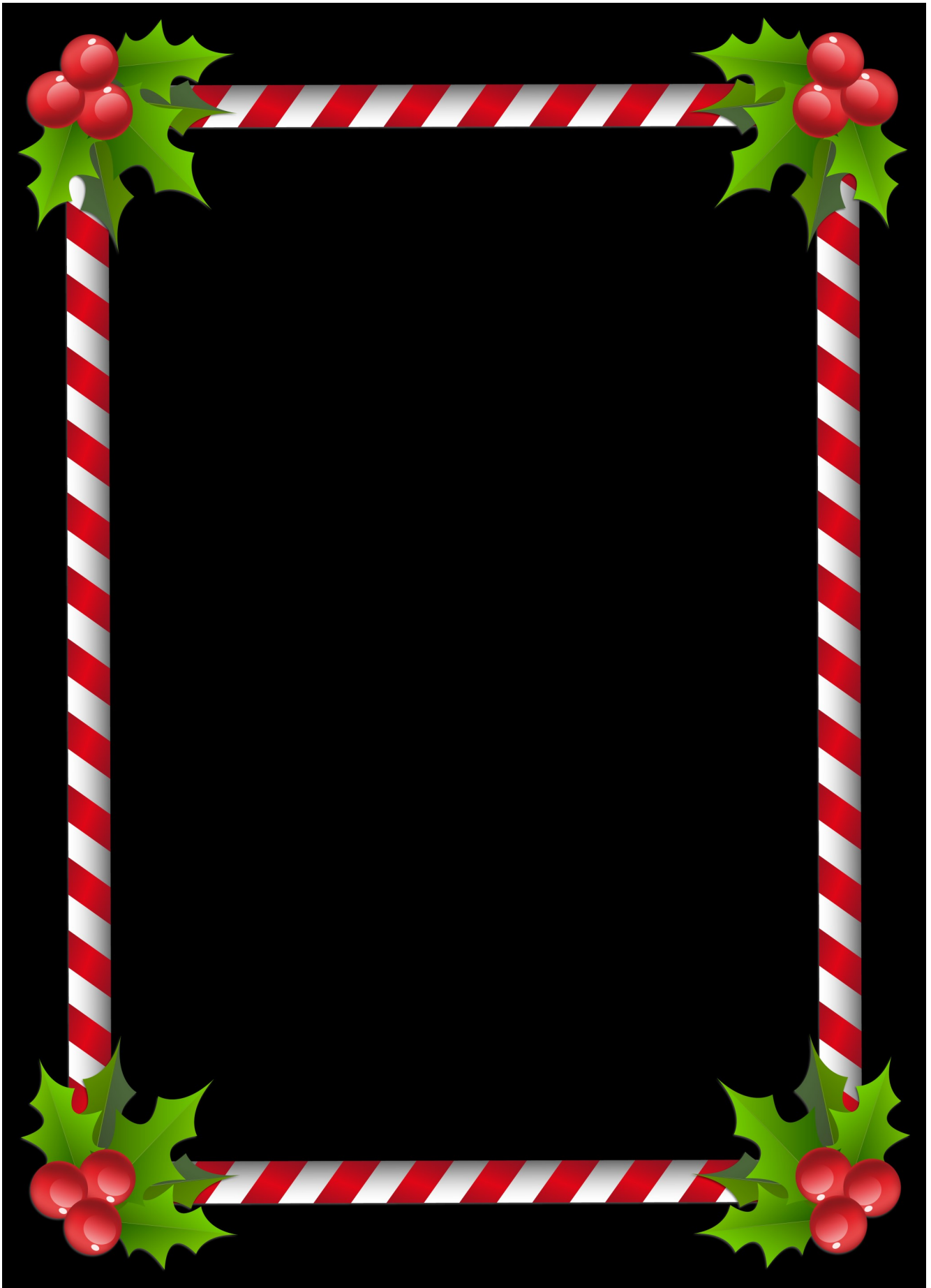
Kane Unit #1038 113.33%

Waynesville Unit #1189 102.56%

Deer Creek Unit #1276 100.00%

**American Legion Dept. of Illinois
2025 FAMILY MEMBERSHIP CARAVAN**

THURSDAY, JANUARY 9				
DIV	DIST	POST	MEAL	TIME
3	14	Macomb Post 6	Dinner	6:00 PM
FRIDAY, JANUARY 10				
3	16	Chillicothe Post 9	Breakfast	8:30 AM
3	15	Colona Post 1233	Lunch	11:30 AM
2	13	Rock Falls Post 902	Dinner	6:00 PM
SATURDAY, JANUARY 11				
2	12	Plano Post 395	Breakfast	8:30 AM
2	11	Lake in the Hills Post 1231	Lunch	11:30 AM
2	10	Waconda Post 911	Dinner	6:00 PM
SUNDAY, JANUARY 12				
1	5	Cicero Post 96	Breakfast	8:30 AM
1	9	Rohde Post 888	Lunch	11:30 AM
1	7	Morton Grove Post 134	Dinner	6:00 PM
MONDAY, JANUARY 13				
4	17	Cullom Post 122	Dinner	6:00 PM
TUESDAY, JANUARY 14—CARAVAN DAY OFF				
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15				
4	19	Sullivan Post 68	Lunch	11:30 AM
4	18	Toledo Post 764	Dinner	6:00 PM
THURSDAY, JANUARY 16				
5	24	Harrisburg Post 167	Lunch	11:30 AM
5	25	Du Quoin Post 647	Dinner	6:00 PM
FRIDAY, JANUARY 17				
5	23	Breese Post 252	Lunch	11:30 AM
5	22	Columbia Post 581	Dinner	6:00 pm
SATURDAY, JANUARY 18				
4	21	Bunker Hill Post 578	Lunch	11:30 AM
3	20	Waverly Post 262	Dinner	6:00 PM



2024 - 2025 Juniors and Young Sons Conference

March 15 – 16, 2025

Best Western Gateway Inn.

Monticello, Illinois



Preparations are underway for the 2024 - 2025 Department of Illinois ALA Juniors and young Sons Conference which will be held at the Best Western in Monticello, Illinois on March 15 – 16th, 2025. Please consider joining us for this event and bring some juniors or young squadron members with you. Registration information will be in the January / February ALA Today.



Conferences such as this can be costly, and our junior units do not have the level of funds that our Units, Posts, and Squadrons have without fundraising. To off-set the cost of this event, we have set up an Amazon wish list to assist in gathering supplies for this event. Items on this list include craft supplies for service projects and patriotic story books to be raffled off for participants. A number of these books will also assist participants with completing requirements for the ALA Patch program. Items purchased from this list will be shipped directly to the Department Chairman so they can be taken to the conference even if you are unable to attend. Scan the QR code to view our wish list.

National is once again sponsoring the Patch Program for the young members of the ALA and the SAL. New this year is an added level for our youngest members. The patch program is a great way to introduce our programs and give participants credit for the things they are already doing in school and their communities.

Purple – Pre-K – K	Red – 1 st – 4 th grades	Gold – 5 th – 8 th grades	Blue – 9 th – 12 th grade
Children of Warriors National Presidents Patch	Children of Warriors National Presidents Patch	Children of Warriors National Presidents Patch	Children of Warriors National Presidents Patch
Americanism	Americanism	Americanism	Americanism
Membership	Community and Family Safety	Community and Family Safety	Care Giver
Poppy	Community Service	Community Service	Community Service
	Digital Media	Education	Education
	Education	Leadership	Good Will
	Leadership	Membership	History
	Membership	Physical Fitness	Leadership
	Physical Fitness	Poppy	Membership
	Poppy	Star Spangled Kids	National Security
	V A & R	V A & R	Physical Fitness
			Poppy
			V A & R

POPPY ORDER FORM

THE AMERICAN LEGION—DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS—POPPY COMMITTEE

Please Submit a Phone Number
 IMPORTANT—Please Print

ORDER SUBMITTED BY	
NAME OF POST or UNIT	POST/UNIT #
STREET ADDRESS	
CITY	ZIP CODE
PHONE NUMBER	

<input type="checkbox"/>	DIVISION	<input type="checkbox"/>	DISTRICT
ORDER TO BE SHIPPED TO ADDRESS BELOW			
POST or UNIT NAME:			
POST or UNIT #:			
C/O:			
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		ZIP:	
PHONE #:			
ORDER TO BE PICKED UP AT SEMINAR or MEETING			

ITEM	QUANTITY	AMOUNT
POPIES— \$150.00 Per Thousand		\$
POPIES— \$160.00 Per Thousand *** 5th DIVISION ONLY ***		\$
POSTER—\$1.50 EACH		\$
CLUB CARDS—N/C		
CAN LABELS—N/C		
RECOGNITION CITATION—N/C		
BOOK MARKERS—N/C UP TO 500 *** ADDITIONAL .03 EACH ***		



Add shipping costs if order is to be mailed **SHIPPING** \$ **14.00**

Make All Checks Payable To: The American Legion, Dept. of Illinois

TOTAL \$

CREDIT CARD # _____

Do NOT send Cash!

CHECK ONLY ONE: VISA MC AMEX DISCVR CHECK CHECK # _____

Credit Card Exp. Date _____

Credit Card Holder Signature _____

Security Code # _____

Please bring this order form when picking up your Poppies at the DIVISION POPPY SEMINARS

OR

Mail this order form to:
 The American Legion
 Department of Illinois
 P.O. Box 2910
 Bloomington, IL 61702

OR

All orders will be filled by the Dept. of IL. Specify in the yellow box above if you want your order mailed -OR- that you will be picking them up at a Poppy Seminar/Meeting.

 SIGNATURE OF PERSON REQUESTING THIS ORDER

 DATE

DEPT. OFFICE USE ONLY	Date received	Finance received	Shipping Dept. received	Date Shipped

Revised OCT 2023

Poppies (Division 1-4)

<u># Of Poppies</u>	<u>Cost</u>
25	\$ 3.75
50	\$ 7.50
75	\$ 11.25
100	\$ 15.00
150	\$ 22.50
200	\$ 30.00
250	\$ 37.50
300	\$ 45.00
350	\$ 52.50
400	\$ 60.00
450	\$ 67.50
500	\$ 75.00
550	\$ 82.50
600	\$ 90.00
650	\$ 97.50
700	\$ 105.00
750	\$ 112.50
800	\$ 120.00
850	\$ 127.50
900	\$ 135.00
950	\$ 142.50
1,000	\$ 150.00
2,000	\$ 300.00
3,000	\$ 450.00
4,000	\$ 600.00
5,000	\$ 750.00
6,000	\$ 900.00
7,000	\$ 1,050.00
8,000	\$ 1,200.00
9,000	\$ 1,350.00
10,000	\$ 1,500.00

Poppies (Division 5)

<u># Of Poppies</u>	<u>Cost</u>
25	\$ 4.00
50	\$ 8.00
75	\$ 12.00
100	\$ 16.00
150	\$ 24.00
200	\$ 32.00
250	\$ 40.00
300	\$ 48.00
350	\$ 56.00
400	\$ 64.00
450	\$ 72.00
500	\$ 80.00
550	\$ 88.00
600	\$ 96.00
650	\$ 104.00
700	\$ 112.00
750	\$ 120.00
800	\$ 128.00
850	\$ 136.00
900	\$ 144.00
950	\$ 152.00
1,000	\$ 160.00
2,000	\$ 320.00
3,000	\$ 480.00
4,000	\$ 640.00
5,000	\$ 800.00
6,000	\$ 960.00
7,000	\$ 1,120.00
8,000	\$ 1,280.00
9,000	\$ 1,440.00
10,000	\$ 1,600.00

Posters

1	1.50	10	15.00
2	3.00	20	30.00
3	4.50	25	37.50
4	6.00	30	45.00
5	7.50	35	52.50
6	9.00	40	60.00
7	10.50	45	67.50
8	12.00	50	75.00
9	13.50		

ATTENTION Poppy Chairmen!!!

If you want to pick your poppies up at your Division Poppy Seminar, you must write it across the top of your order form "PU at Seminar". If not, you must pay postage for the American Legion to mail them to you.

Department Office Closings & Membership Reports

The Department Office will be closed December 24-January 1 for the Holidays. We will return to the office January 2nd.

There will be a membership report on December 18th and the next report will be on January 8, 2025.

ALAMIS Information

Unit Full \$20.00 - Can pay unit dues electronically as well

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

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

If you are keeping the same access you had in 2024, no new form is needed.

Members whose authorization forms and payment reach Department Office by December 15th will have access beginning January 1st. Authorizations and payments received after December 15th may experience an interruption and delay in access.

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.

97th Annual Patriotic Conference

Mark your calendars!!!

Hotel information and meal snipsheets will be in the Jan/Feb ALA Today.

ARE YOU PLANNING TO ATTEND??? YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS IT! There are many exciting things planned for the day – the boost we all need to get us through the remainder of the year!

Mark your calendars for **Friday, March 21, 2025 beginning at 9:00 a.m.** Invite The American Legion Family and your friends to attend with you. ALL members of The American Legion Family and guests are welcome!

Every effort is being made by our Department Chairmen to secure interesting speakers. Throughout the day, you can enjoy taking part in activities and various fundraisers.

Much effort goes into planning to make this a very informative and motivational day. Everyone is encouraged to attend!

The Spring Board meeting will be held Friday night, March 21, 2025, and conclude Saturday morning, March 22, 2025. All Department Officers, Division and District Presidents and Department Chairmen are required to attend.

Children & Youth

Special Olympics Chairman Sue Johnson

Winter games this year has been reduced down to one day or possible cancelled due to lack of participation for 2025. They will not need our great hospitality, but please mark your calendar for June 20th and 21st we will need every ones' help especially a lot more on Saturday for volunteers and product from the list so please mark your calendars for those dates more information to come in the near future. Please keep up the good work for volunteering for these very important programs.

Ask a Female Veteran to be your Valentine!

In Illinois, we honor Female Veterans on Valentines Day. We are starting now to ensure that any tributes to them will arrive early enough for our representatives to have time to distribute their gifts. We've assigned Districts to facilities so that all women veterans are honored.

Please remember the female veterans in your own Legion posts and communities, and those active-duty women serving now. Let's show them how much we appreciate their sacrifice for us. Being a "Woman Veteran" has its own set of challenges while serving our country.

It is necessary to contact our representatives at each facility to get the number of female veterans there, and some idea for gifts. The gifts should be given to the representatives **before February 5th**. Ask if they should be wrapped or not. If they can be wrapped, a list of items in the package should be included.

Here is a list of the VA facilities and the American Legion Auxiliary Districts responsible for each:

Captain James A Lovell	Districts 2-9
Hines VA Medical Center	Districts 2-13
Jesse Brown VA	Districts 2-9
Illiana VA Health Care System	Districts 17, 18, 19, & 21
Marion VA Medical Center	Districts 22-25
IL Veterans Home Anna	Districts 22-25
IL Veterans Home LaSalle	Districts 12, 13, & 16
IL Veterans Home Manteno	Districts 11, 12, 13, 17, 18, & 19
IL Veterans Home Quincy	Districts 14, 15, 16, 20, & 21
Jefferson Barracks VAMC	Districts 22-25
John Cochran VAMC	Districts 22-25

We might know women who are veterans, but do not think about thanking them for what they have done for our country and us. Valentine's Day is an opportunity to show our appreciation.

Let's make this a great year for Valentine's Day and our Women Veterans!

Angie Golightly

Past Presidents Parley Chairman

EASTER GIFT PROGRAM

Easter gifts in the amount of \$5.00 will be provided for the Veterans who are hospitalized, in nursing homes, assisted living facilities, or are homebound due to health issues. This program is made possible through Unit contributions to the 5th point in the 6 Point Program. An Easter card will also be provided by the Department to accompany the \$5.00 Easter gift. **Please note: You do not need names of veterans, just how many.** Veterans in VA Medical Centers and State facilities will be counted by their representatives.

PLEASE NOTE: Make sure your unit officers' lists are up to date and filed with the department. We need to know who the treasurer is and the correct contact information, or else items will be withheld until that is corrected.

Report your numbers on the survey sheet below **by April 4th, 2025. Don't be late.**

Laurinda Kidd

Box 276, Leland, IL. 60531

Lk8thilcav@hotmail.com

UNIT NAME: _____ UNIT NUMBER _____ DISTRICT _____

FACILITY NAME:

HOW MANY VETERANS:

TOTAL NUMBER OF HOMEBOUND VETERANS _____

***TOTAL NUMBER OF VETERANS** _____

Checks and cards will be sent to the Unit treasurer

UNIT TREASURER _____

ADDRESS _____

Email _____

AREA CODE AND PHONE NUMBER _____

UNIT PRESIDENT _____

ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER, AND EMAIL _____

VA & R Needs

John Cochran:

- Winter Coats and Jackets (All Sizes)
 - Tennis shoes (Sizes 9-13)
- Marcia Ziska, Rep.

Jefferson Barracks:

- Winter Coats
 - Hats & Gloves
 - Hygiene Products (must be alcohol free)
 - Shoes (all sizes)
 - Undergarments (Men & Women)
 - Sweatshirts & Sweatpants (M-XXL)
- Barb Rose, Rep.

Bloomington VA:

- Men's socks
- Men's Underwear (M-2XL but the greatest need is for L/XL)
- Men's T-shirts
- Coats
- Travel size hygiene items
- Non-perishable food items
- Women's and Men's gloves
- Hand and Foot Warmers
- Small bottle of hand sanitizer
- Small bottles of water

Sue Winger, Rep.

Lovell FHCC:

- Axe Hygiene Products
- Shampoo and Condition
- Lotion and Shaving Cream
- Deodorant
- Puzzle books
- Gift Cards (Fast food)
- 2025 Wall Calendars (extras you may have)
- Bingo prizes
- Gloves, hats, socks, sweatshirts (S-XL)
- Hand and foot warmers

LaVera Davis, Rep.

Jesse Brown VA:

- Men's: winter hats and gloves, coats, jackets, sweatshirts and pants, shoes/boots, belts, long sleeve shirts, jeans. (all must be clean)

- Women: shoes/boots, gloves, knit hats, slacks, sweaters, long sleeve tops, sweatshirts. (all must be clean)
- New Travel size Hygiene products (lotion, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, roll on deodorant, lip balm, body wash, soaps).

- Large Word searches, playing cards, small pads of paper, pens/pencils.
- Small baggies with tide pods and dryer sheets (label on outside and place in a box)

-make a list of how many items of each. Contact Jo Ann for pick up.

Jo Ann Keenan, Rep.

Illiana VAMC:

- 3 n 1 body wash
- Nonalcoholic mouthwash
- Stick deodorant (men and women)
- Body lotion

Patti Williamson, Rep.

Hines VA:

- Women's Body wash and Body Spray
- Brushes and Combs (Men and Women)
- Men's Deodorant
- 3-in-1 Shampoo, Conditioner, and Body Wash
- Finger and Toenail Clippers
- Baby Powder
- T-shirts (Sizes L, XL, and 2XL)
- Hand and Body Lotion
- Toothpaste and Toothbrushes

Pat Kowalski, Rep.

Anna:

- Electric Razors
- Snacks, coffee (regular & decaf), soda
- Flags (US, POW, State)
- Cologne
- Polos and Sweatshirts (M-4XL)
- Slacks and Sweatpants (M-4XL)
- Men's Sandals and Tennis Shoes w/ Velcro (Size 8-14)
- Men's Suspenders
- Women's Sport Bras (S-M)

Debbie Ferguson, Rep.



**The American Legion
Springfield Post 32
Home of & Originator of the National
American Legion Pilgrimage to the
Tomb of Abraham Lincoln**

Tuesday, February 11, 2025

4:30 PM - 6:00 PM:

American Legion Family Leadership Reception at
The Headquarters Hotel. Keynote Speaker: The

Sons of The American Legion National

Commander,

Joseph Navarrete

4:00 PM - 1:00 AM:

FREE shuttle service to Post 32.

4:00 PM - 9:00 PM:

Dinner at Post 32

4:00 PM - 1:00 AM:

Open House at Post 32

**See Reverse Side for More Information about the
Post 32 Open House**

91st Annual Pilgrimage Headquarters

Located at 7th and Adams Streets in Springfield,
Illinois, The **President Abraham Lincoln Double
Doubletree Hotel** is the 91st Annual Pilgrimage
Headquarters Hotel.

**See Reverse Side for Details About Registering for
Rooms at the Headquarters Hotel**

**Pilgrimage Program
Wednesday, February 12, 2025**

(Breakfast and Luncheon at Headquarters Hotel)

8:00 AM: American Legion Family Breakfast

featuring Keynote Address by
National President Trish Ward
The American Legion Auxiliary

10:00 AM: Pilgrimage to the Tomb

10:30 AM: Placing of Wreaths and Tomb

Ceremony, Mr. Lincoln's Tomb,
Oak Ridge Cemetery

12:30 PM: Lincoln Commemoration Luncheon

featuring Keynote Address by
The American Legion National Commander,
James A. LaCoursiere, Jr

**See Reverse Side for More Information about
reserving breakfast and luncheon tickets.**

February 11 & 12, 2025

**91st Annual
National American Legion
Pilgrimage to the Tomb of
President Abraham Lincoln**



February 11 - 12, 2025
President Abraham Lincoln
Doubletree Hotel
701 East Adams Street
Springfield, Illinois 62701
217-544-9800

POST 32 OPEN HOUSE

4:00 PM – 1:00 AM

Tuesday, February 11, 2025

4:00 PM – 1:00 AM

Continuous FREE shuttle service

between the President Abraham Lincoln Hotel and American Legion Post 32

4:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Our Mess Hall Restaurant presents Dinner

Service Featuring the Following Menu

Gouda Stuffed Chicken Breast Dinner w/ Blue Cheese Smashed Potatoes Vegetable & Roll

or

Roast Pork Loin Dinner w/
Cheesy Potatoes
Vegetable and Roll

Available Salads:

Chicken Strip Salad w/choice of dressing

Taco Salad

Chef Salad w/choice of dressing

8:00 PM – Midnight - Free Juke Box

Suggest You Make Reservations

Call 217-523-3415 or

Email us at spfildpost32@outlook.com

or visit our website

www.springfieldamericanlegion.com

Breakfast and Luncheon Reservation

Reservations for Breakfast and the Luncheon must be received or canceled by **Tuesday, February 4, 2025**, or we are unable to guarantee seating or refunds. No tickets will be mailed. Please specify how many tickets you require for both breakfast and luncheon.

American Legion Family Breakfast

Keynote Speaker

National President Trish Ward

The American Legion Auxiliary

_____ # of Tickets at \$30 each = \$ _____

Lincoln Commemoration Luncheon

Keynote Speaker •

National Commander James A. LaCoursiere, Jr

The American Legion

_____ # of Tickets at \$35 each = \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Department: _____

Title: _____

Make check payable to American Legion Post 32

Mail this form and your check to:

American Legion Springfield Post 32

Attn: Ticket Chair, Barb Lush

1120 Sangamon Avenue, Springfield, IL, 62702

Registering Rooms at the

Headquarters Hotel

Room rates are \$114.00 + tax per night, single or double rooms including parking. Call 217-544-8800 to reserve rooms (press 0 when prompted) or register online (preferred):

<https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/americanlegionpilgrimage/>

[americanlegionpilgrimage/](https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/americanlegionpilgrimage/)

This is a conference rate negotiated with the Headquarters Hotel by Post 32. To get this rate, you must do two things:

1. If you register by telephone, you must say that you are part of The American Legion Lincoln Pilgrimage; and,
2. You must register your room by **Monday, January 20, 2025**. After that, we can no longer guarantee that a room will be available.

If you register online at the link above, your room will automatically be linked with The Pilgrimage.

A Final Note:

If you have any questions about the Post 32 Open House, or The American Legion Family Breakfast, or The Lincoln Commemoration Luncheon, please contact Pilgrimage General Chair, James Peters at

Phone: 217-416-1533 or

Email: jpeters.ilsal@yahoo.com

ALA - Department of Illinois 2024-2025 Master Snip Sheet

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

Dept. President's Special Project	Auxiliary Emergency Fund	\$
Americanism	Americanism Fund	\$
	Spirit of Youth Fund	\$
Auxiliary Emergency Fund	AEF Fund	\$
Children & Youth		
	Children's Miracle Network	\$
	Chicago/	
Christmas Gift Program	Rockford	\$
Children & Youth	Peoria	\$
Scholarship		
	Springfield/	
Special Olympics	Champaign	\$
	St. Louis	\$
Education	Education Scholarships	\$
Junior Activities	Dept. Junior Conference	\$
	Junior Group Donations	\$
Illini Girls State	IGS Program Donation	\$
	IGS Registration	\$
National Security	National Security Fund	\$
	USO Centers ***	
	Great Lakes Center	\$
	Midway	\$
	O'Hare	\$
	Marseilles Training	
	Center	\$
	St. Louis	\$
Past Presidents		
Parley	Nurses Scholarship	\$
	Parley Dues - \$1 per Past President (include Parley Dues Form)	\$

Total \$

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

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

ALA - Department of Illinois 2024-2025 Master Snip Sheet

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

Veterans Affairs & Rehab	\$ _____
	Six Point Program ***
Treasure Chest/Hospitality \$ _____	Christmas Gift Shop \$ _____
Canteen Books \$ _____	Easter Gift \$ _____
Fresh Fruit \$ _____	VA Nursing Homes \$ _____
Vets Medical Transport*** \$ _____	
Fisher House*** \$ _____	
	Hospitals and Facilities ***
Anna Veterans Home \$ _____	General Donation \$ _____
Bloomington Outpatient Clinic \$ _____	Jesse Brown VA \$ _____
Bob Michel Outpatient Clinic \$ _____	LaSalle Veterans Home \$ _____
Decatur Outpatient Clinic \$ _____	Capt. James Lovell FHCC \$ _____
Hines VA \$ _____	Manteno Veterans Home \$ _____
Illiana VA \$ _____	Marion VA \$ _____
Jefferson Barracks St. Louis VA \$ _____	Mattoon Outpatient Clinic \$ _____
John Cochran St. Louis VA \$ _____	Quincy Veterans Home \$ _____
	Springfield Outpatient Clinic \$ _____

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	Vet & Children Relief Fund/Illinois Disaster Fund	\$ _____
SAL Commanders Special Project	Operation Comfort Warriors ***	\$ _____
National Organization	American Legion Auxiliary Foundation	\$ _____
	National President's Special Project	\$ _____
	National Creative Arts Program ***	\$ _____
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 _____



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

2025 DUES REMITTANCE

Date: _____

Unit Name _____ Unit # _____ Dist # _____

Person preparing membership remittance:

Name: _____

Daytime Phone: _____

Email: _____

Number of Seniors: _____ @\$29.00 \$ _____

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, but 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, 2024 or before, must pay Senior dues for 2025 membership.

	Member ID#	Name as it appears on the National Roster (If there has been a recent name change please include both names.)	2025 Renewal		2025 New		Former/rejoin	
			SR	JR	SR	JR	SR	JR
1								
2								
3								
4								
5								
6								
7								
8								
9								
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12								
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26								
27								
28								
29								
30								

Total Sr 's this page _____

Total Jr's this page _____

American Legion Auxiliary Membership Report - 11/20/24

District	Division	President	Units	Goal	Total Members	Goal %
13	2	Jerri Akins	15	559	375	67.08%
19	4	Sandra Kirby	33	1790	1154	64.47%
11	2	Barbara Howe	34	1822	1165	63.94%
14	3	Dona Kenney	11	539	342	63.45%
18	4	Debbie Myles	28	1180	740	62.71%
7	1		3	145	90	62.07%
17	4	Crystal Black	33	1346	831	61.74%
16	3	Teri Miller	25	1209	707	58.48%
23	5	Diana Owens	24	1479	864	58.42%
12	2	Janet Bacon	25	1648	951	57.71%
15	3	Michelle Gorsage	27	998	566	56.71%
8	1	Lea Morsovillo	11	635	353	55.59%
10	2	LaVera Davis	13	564	313	55.50%
20	3	Sophia Reavley	19	646	339	52.48%
21	4	Yvonne Caudle	16	633	331	52.29%
22	5	Marge Leezy	26	986	473	47.97%
4	1	Gailwyn Starr	7	201	96	47.76%
25	5	Doris Bartolotti	14	762	357	46.85%
24	5	April Parkhurst	14	607	275	45.30%
5	1	Balvina "Bo" Ranney	11	363	151	41.60%
9	1	Lois Kurowski	7	551	224	40.65%
2	1		4	68	26	38.24%
3	1	Karen Atkins	7	135	51	37.78%
		Headquarters 2910	1	550	397	72.18%
		TOTALS	408	19416	11171	57.54%
		Department Stretch		667		
		Illinois' National Goal		20083		0.00%

4	Nora Hanaver	4949	3056	61.75%
2	Karen Heller	4593	2804	61.05%
3	Catherine Reavley	3392	1954	57.61%
5	Judy Zimmerman	3834	1969	51.36%
1	Cathy Zito	2098	991	47.24%

Goal Units **8**

Joyce Huelsmann
Department Membership
Chairman

Arlene Holtgrave
Department President

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

Interim Managing Director

Arlene Holtgrave

Sharon Conatser

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

American Legion Auxiliary

★ *A community of volunteers* ★

Serving veterans, military, and their families

NON-PROFIT ORG

U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

Bloomington, IL

Permit No. 18

Dates to Remember

- December 7 Pearl Harbor Day—75% Membership Target Date
- January 9-19 American Legion Family Membership Caravan
- January 24 Lincoln Pilgrimage Award Deadline
- February 11-12 Abraham Lincoln Pilgrimage - Springfield, IL
- March 15-16 Juniors and Young Sons Conference—Monticello, IL
- March 21-22 Patriotic Conference and Spring Board Meeting—Springfield, IL
- March 29 SAL Commander Rick Allen’s Homecoming—Cullom, IL
- June 15-21 ALA Illini Girls State—Charleston, IL
- July 10 100% Membership Target Date—Department Convention
- July 10-13 Department Convention—Springfield, IL