



Cynthia Robbins
Commander
Post 32

The Morning Report

Quarterly Newsletter for The American Legion Springfield Post 32 Family

Past National Commander Tommie Cisna The Sons of The American Legion

As Interviewed by Post 32 Squadron Commander, Jim Peters

When did you become involved in the Sons of the American Legion and what was your motivation?

I became aware of the Sons of The American Legion when a friend of mine from high school was Post #88 manager and invited me to join. I hate to say it, but, 38 years ago, beer was cheaper there than any of the bars in town.

Can you tell us about your eligibility for the Sons and your families' military service?

My eligibility is through my Father, Edward Cisna, who served in the Air Force during Korea. He is also the one that took me to the Post as a child, for activities such as Halloween, Christmas parties and suppers.

What offices have you held with the Sons of the American Legion?

I have held almost all offices, including Commander, at the Squadron, District, Division and Detachment level. I have served on and Chaired several National Committees and Commissions. It was an honor for me to serve as National Commander for the Sons of The American Legion in 2008/2009.

What is the most gratifying aspect of your obviously dedicated commitment to the Sons of the American Legion program?

During my service as National Commander, I made a visit to Scott/White Children's hospital in Austin TX. I was distributing "Josh Dogs" when a small boy from New Hampshire, who was there for a liver transplant, heard that "The Sons of The American Legion" were visiting. That boy had been so moved by the Sons back in his home state that he just had to come meet us. To me, that boy knew the core of what The Sons are all about. It means that, if our message can reach that small boy, we can reach anyone.

When you communicate with new members or new leaders with the SAL, what do you

tell them is the most important area of focus that benefits the program the most?

The message for any Sons member would be to talk to everyone. Let them all know what the Sons are all about. We are about helping our Veterans and helping our children. We are about volunteering in the V.A. hospitals. We are about youth activities, such as Child Welfare, Junior shooting program, Girls and Boys State and Nation. It is about reporting all that we do. We are about increasing our membership ranks so that we can do more volunteering.

How would you describe the outlook for the Sons of the American Legion? Is your vision for the future positive and what role will members of the SAL play overall in the American Legion Family?

The outlook for the Sons looks good, in my opinion. Our membership ranks continue to grow. We have many programs to include our younger members, to keep it fresh and relevant to them. When you find an active Sons program, you usually find a strong and active American Legion family at that Post.

Honoring National Officers

In the last issue of The Morning Report, we reported a brief interview with JR Stillwell, Past National Commander of The Sons of The American Legion. This issue we report an interview with Tommie Cisna, Past National Commander of The Sons of The American Legion. In the January 2024 issue, we will report an interview with Sharon Conatser, Past National President of The American Legion Auxiliary. In the April 2024 issue, we will report an interview with Marty Conatser, Past National Commander, The American Legion. These are all members of The American Legion Family, Department of Illinois.



Suzie Q. Weiss
President
Unit 32



Jim Peters
Commander
Squadron 32



Mike Lee
Director
Post 32
Riders

Sangamon County Sheriff's Office "TRIAD" Program

Detective Amie Robinson, TRIAD Program Director

What is TRIAD? TRIAD was developed in 1988 when three national organizations, the American Association of Retired Persons, the International Association of Chiefs of Police, and the National Sheriff's Association, decided to collaborate to help decrease crimes against seniors. Today, TRIAD includes other organizations that work directly with seniors.

In 1990 the Illinois Attorney General's Office founded the Illinois TRIAD, one of the first states in the nation to guide a statewide response to the critical issue of crime against seniors. 34 states have signed a statewide agreement. Illinois has several TRIADs throughout the state.

TRIAD developed specialized training for law enforcement officers and created the certified Elderly Service Officer (ESO). These officers receive training on the needs of seniors, the problems in the senior community, and assisting in preventing crimes against seniors.

Today, TRIAD is a partnership of senior citizens, law enforcement agencies, and support/protective services who agree to work together to improve the lives of seniors and to enhance the exchange of information among law enforcement, support services and senior citizens.

In 2020 members attempted to create the Sangamon County TRIAD (SCT) however it was delayed due to Covid. In July 2022 SCT was finally launched. The mission of the SCT is to build trusting relationships among law enforcement, social services, and seniors through education. The goals are reducing criminal victimization of older citizens and enhancing delivery of services to that population. TRIAD focuses on unwarranted fear of crime and improving quality of life for seniors.

In 2021, the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) reported over 92,000 victims over the age of 60 reported losses of 1.7 billion dollars, a 74% increase from 2020 reports. Illinois seniors lost over 49 million. It is important to note that these are the crimes that have been reported. Some seniors do not report their losses; some common reasons for failing to report these crimes are embarrassment or not knowing how to report them.

The SCT spent 2022 spreading the word about TRIAD. The SCT held over 20 presentations; some were public, and some were invited by a variety of private facilities and churches. Those attending shared their stories with one another and the presenters. Sharing is important because people learn it's not just them, thus reducing embarrassment. The presenters learn as well, often hearing about new scams of which they were unaware.

The SCT hosted educational events focused on identity theft and scams; how to identify who is knocking on your door; how to deal with phone and door solicitors; what TRIAD is; basic safety information; and meeting local first responders. The SCT has plans for presentations on home security information and inspections; elder abuse prevention, recognition, and reporting; emergency preparedness plans for seniors; file for life; training law enforcement on communicating and assisting older citizens; and more.

The SCT Board consists of law enforcement officers from Sangamon County Sheriff's Office, Springfield Police Department, and Rochester Police Department. Two officers are certified ESOs. Also, members come from Sangamon County States Attorney's Office, the Illinois Attorney General's Office, Senior Center of Central Illinois (adult protective services), Springfield Supportive Living, Illinois State Police Silver Search Program, AgeLinc, Advanced Healthcare, United Community Bank, King's Daughters, and seniors. Our team of board members accomplished a lot in the first year of the TRIAD.

On October 20, 2023, 1:00 – 3:00 PM, the SCT will host a Health Fair in the food court, White Oaks Mall. At 2:00 PM, see local first responders as they walk our fashion runway showing their uniforms and vehicles. This event is open to the public.

Follow us on Facebook (Sangamon County Triad), find our website at <https://www.sangamoncounty-sheriff.com/>, email sangamontriad@gmail.com, or contact Sangamon County Sheriff's Detective Amie Robinson (217) 747-5179.

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THE AMERICAN LEGION
Dylan Walton, Benjamin Walton,
Lincoln Davis & Levi Davis**

Distress Bandanna – A Program to Promote Safety and Awareness

John and Vivian Anderson

Distress Bandanna authored and sponsored Senate Bill 2028, a life-saving legislation that aims to improve stranded motorists' safety along our roadsides. The new law will mandate the inclusion of stranded motorists' safety protocol in the Illinois Rules of the Road effective January 2024, ensuring that it is taught in high school Driver Education classes across the state. The updated protocols, among other things, advise drivers on how to pull safely out of traffic and into a safe location, use hazard lights, when to stay in a stranded vehicle, and when and how to safely exit a stranded vehicle.

Our very own Post 32 Legion Rider John Anderson, and his wife Vivian, wrote the legislation and guided it through the General Assembly. The Chief Sponsors were Representative Katie Stuart, Senator Steve McClure, and Senator Laura Murphy. The Distress Bandanna Teen Driver Safety Initiative, Inc. is a (501c3) not-for-profit organization (501c3). John and Vivian fully implement the teen driver safety program through the non-profit organization without compensation. John and Vivian are also the owners of the Distress Bandanna, Inc.

Educating motorists on stranded motorists' safety precautions will reduce injuries and fatalities. Stranded motorists are getting hit, injured, and killed by distracted drivers, drowsy drivers, impaired drivers, and speeding. Latest data from IDOT from 2019 to 2021 of Motor Vehicle Crashes involving a Disabled Vehicle showed Crash Totals of 456 with 29 Fatal Crashes of Disabled Vehicles with 35 Fatal Injuries. This does not include data if the disabled motorist moved away from their vehicle and were hit. If that's the case, they are incorrectly categorized as pedestrians.

Distress Bandanna Teen Driver Safety Initiative (501c3) has successfully provided volunteer hands-on instruction to 2,100 driver education classes impacting 80,000 young drivers. Distress Bandanna has developed safety coalitions in communities, by bringing together and collaborating with multiple traffic safety partners. For example, collaboration with Ameren Illinois for

downed power line vehicle safety in high schools (See picture below). The Distress Bandanna program includes traffic safety awareness campaigns that help to ensure that youth feel safer on the roads. For example, Distress Bandanna works with Driver Education teachers to implement a Scott's Law extra credit assignment. John and Vivian's Distress Bandanna is guided by a commitment to saving lives and promoting and strengthening the awareness of safety among teen drivers. The Distress Bandanna is a useful and simple product that can be used as a distress flag, a medical emergency tool, a tourniquet, a splint, an aerial search & rescue signal, and more.

For more information contact John or Vivian:

Email – distressbandanna@gmail.com

John's Phone – 217-725-4509

Vivian's Phone – 217-725-5904

Website – www.distressbandanna.com



Fundraiser for Pam Ray

Fundraisers are planned in support of Pam Ray's candidacy for National President of The American Legion Auxiliary for 2024-2025. **First** will be an October Fest held Sunday Oct. 8th from Noon to 6 PM with Schnitzel Sandwiches and German Beer. **Second** we will sell December calendars, giving you 31 chances to WIN \$\$, for only \$10. These are available now at Post 32.

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The American Legion Springfield Post 32 Family Leadership

Post 32 Commander Cynthia Robbins

Things have been brewing at the Post in this last quarter. My favorite Sr. Vice Commander, Jay Sanders has recently volunteered to serve on Representative Mike Coffey's Veterans Advisory Council – a tremendous opportunity for Jay and reflects positively on Post 32.

In August, Legionnaire/Rider Charley De Hart and his wife purchased the property behind the Post and signed the deed over to Post 32. This was a wonderful act of generosity. We need to clean up the property. We need monetary donations to accomplish this mission. Please don't hesitate to give.

In September, Post 32 joined with Post 809 to "Feed the Vets." We provided a meal to any veteran and family, at no cost, at Post 809. I wish hardy "thank you" to Commander Michael Johnson and the ladies Auxiliary. There was lots of grilling and cooking, camaraderie, and music. This joint venture is one of many to come.

I am still collecting denim of any type for the 20 and 4 organization. The fabric is used to make beautiful lap robes for veterans in Illinois nursing homes and hospitals Illinois. You may drop off the fabric at the Post or call me and I will pick it up from you: 217-638-9197. I thank each of you for the contributions made.

Unit 32 President Suzie Q. Weiss

We have gained new members into our group. Growing is a must to stay active. Our quarter auction which raised funds so that we could help our Veterans was a success. Our funds are also going to help our adopted school which is McClernand Elementary school. We are planning a Harvest Dinner for November 4 from 11a-2pm please come and join us.

Our Junior Emmalyn Hickey is planning a fundraiser to continue her program of snacks for all Emergency personal. It is called EM'S PURPOSE. Emmy has made it her purpose to ensure that our heroes know that they are not alone!!! Fundraiser is Sunday, Oct. 1 at 11AM at Indian Creek Farmstead. Let's try and support her.

Please be on the lookout for our \$250 gift card from HUMPHREY'S Market. Cost of the ticket is \$10 and we will draw on Thanksgiving eve at the Post.

Thank you to all who support our American Legion Post 32.

For more information, please contact me: Weissuziq@aol.com, 217-341-3728; or Ethellynn Neville: Ethellynn1@comcast.net, 217-836-9173.

God Bless America,
Suzie Weiss, Post 32 Auxiliary President

Squadron 32 Commander James Peters

Greetings American Legion family. We are past another successful state of Illinois American Legion Family convention. Congratulations to Department Commander Buske, Detachment Commander Vozar and Department President Golightly. We all look forward to another year of success in Illinois. The convention was well attended; we had a great crowd at Freedom Fest. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped with Freedom Fest and assisted with putting on a great convention.

I'm writing this message and remembering 22 years since the 9/11 terrorist attack on the United States. This day we remember the atrocities committed and honor those who lost their lives on that day: airliner passengers and crew; all the occupants of the buildings; and first responders. We are grateful for the military personnel who risked their lives in defense of our nation.

2021-2022 was great for Squadron 32 exceeding 100% in membership. My challenge is to add at least 20 new members to Squadron 32 and 100% renewals. Please recruit new members to achieve this goal. Contact me at: jpeters.ilsal@yahoo.com or 217-416-1533.

Post 32 Legion Riders Director Mike Lee

Last quarter was a busy time for the Post 32 Riders. Next quarter will be just as busy. In July we went for a morning ride on the Fourth to celebrate our Freedoms, as a Nation, and for the Freedom of the road. During the ride, we raised \$460 and contributed another \$2,000 to the National Commanders Emergency Fund. The Riders helped with parking cars during the State Fair. Post 32 held its first annual pre-convention.

Congratulations to Post 32 Riders Topper Davis and David Dobson who won the Department Convention's Bike Show. We want to give our Riders member Charlie Dehart, and his Wife Mary Joe, a big "Thank You". They purchased property adjacent to Post 32 on Jolles Ave and donated it to the Post 32.

On August 24, we escorted our member Carol Bayer on her last ride to her services at Camp Butler National Cemetery. Riders took part in the Missouri State Vietnam war memorial vigil and ride the weekend of 15-16 September. September 1, 2023, kicked off our annual fund raising for Wreaths Across America to place Remembrance Wreaths on Veterans' graves at Camp Butler National Cemetery. This year's ceremony date is 16 December at 11:00 AM at Camp Butler. We will accept donations up to December 1, 2023.

For more information about these events, contact me: 217-741-3003 or Biker1950@comcast.net.

Post 32 Quarterly Calendar

October, November, and December 2023

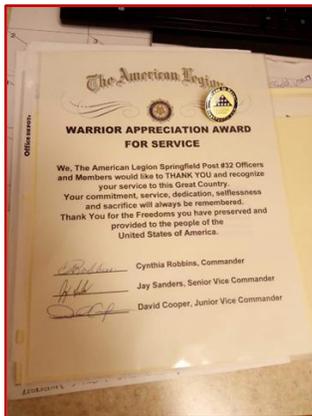
Event	Time and Date
Regular Events at Post 32	October, November, and, December 2023
4 th Monday, 50/50 Drawing (Final)	6:50 PM – October 23
4 th Monday, Sons of The American Legion Raffle Drawing (Must be present to win \$500.00. If not present, you can win \$250.00) (Final)	7:00 PM – October 23
4 th Wednesday Drawing (Must be present to win Color TV or Gift Certificates)	7:00 PM – October 25, November 22, December 27
Unit 32 Meetings	5:00 PM – October 3, November 7, December 5
Legion Riders Meetings	6:00 PM – October 3, November 7, December 5
LaFemmes	5:00 PM – October 10, November 14, December 12
ALMHC Club Committee Meetings	5:00 PM – October 17, November 21, December 19
Squadron 32 Meetings	5:30 PM – October 24, November 28, December 26
Post 32 Meetings	6:30 PM – October 24, November 28, December 26
Special Events at Post 32	
October/Schnitzel Fest	October 8 – 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM
Veterans' Day Free Ham & Beans	November 11 – 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM
Auxiliary Humphrey's Drawing	November 22 – 4:00 PM
Thanksgiving Day	November 23: Mess Hall Closed, Bar opens at 4:00 PM
Morning Report Meeting	December 19 – 6:00 PM
Christmas Day	December 25: Mess Hall Closed, Bar opens at 4:00 PM

Warrior Appreciation Awards for Service (See Story on Page 6.):

Left – The Appreciation Award

Center – 12 Veterans at Villa East Senior Care in Sherman, Illinois;

Right – Bob Dyson of Cedarhurst in Springfield, Jay Sanders and Topper Davis



Friends of the American Legion Family and Sponsors of The Morning Report – Thank You!

American Legion Post 32

Mess Hall Restaurant

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Dinner: Monday – Friday 4:00 PM – 8:00 PM

www.springfieldamericanlegion.com

spfldpost32@outlook.com

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American Legion Family Members, We Need Your Donations!

Michael Walton, President of the Not-for-Profit American Legion Memorial Home Corporation

A special thank you to two outstanding members of our American Legion Family, Ms. Mary Jo Welch, and Mr. Charlie DeHart. **They purchased a property, at a cost of \$20,000, across the alley from Post 32 and donated it to Post 32 for possible future expansion.** The property (1117 Joles Avenue) sold at a Sheriff's Sale and unfortunately, it has been neglected for years and is no longer habitable. The yard was totally overgrown with trees, weeds, and all types of other debris.

Recently, Sons of the American Legion member Mr. Joey Chernis, owner of Midwest Demolition and his crew cleaned up the yard, They, along with several of our members and Club Committee Team members have been continually working and now the yard is no longer a disgrace to the neighborhood.

The house is a total shamble. Our next project is to demolish the house, move the debris pile to the dump and pay dumping fees. This will cost several thousand dollars. Currently, we have no funds to accomplish this project.

If you can assist us in any dollar amount (no amount is too small and no amount is too large), it would be of great service to Post 32 and the veterans we serve.

Thank you for your consideration! You can send your donation to:

American Legion Memorial Home Corporation
ATTN: 1117 Project
1120 Sangamon Avenue
Springfield, Illinois 62702-1853

The Heart of Wes Barr

Mike Walton, Post 32 Finance Officer

Josh Broughton and his Team from P.H. Broughton did a great job of improving the Post 32 parking lot. They are good at what they do. And thanks to Joey Chernis for helping set this up for Post 32.

A very special thanks to Sherry Barr and The Heart of Wes Barr Foundation for making this happen for us. The foundation covered all the \$4,780.00 cost for this project. Wes was a Marine Veteran, Member of Post 32, and the Sangamon County Sheriff. Following his passing, Sherry created the foundation in his memory. I am sure my buddy Wes is looking down and smiling. By the way, The Heart of Wes Barr Foundation is always accepting donations.

Warrior Appreciation Awards for Service

Jay Sanders, Post 32 Senior Vice Commander (infantryeightyfour@outlook.com)

In February of 2023, Jay Sanders, Post 32 Senior Vice Commander, created the Warrior Appreciation Awards for Service. This program honors veterans who may feel abandoned and forgotten. Award certificates are taken to nursing facilities in Sangamon County and the surrounding areas where they are presented to the veterans living at the facility. While there, Senior Vice Commander Sanders gives a speech for the veterans letting them know their service is appreciated and not forgotten. He and the other Post 32 members sit with the veterans and talk to them about their service, lives, families, and anything else they want to talk about. Before leaving, they are given contact information so they can reach out if they need someone to talk to, someone

to advocate for them at their facility, or just to not feel so alone. Thus far, Post 32 has been to several facilities and met with many veterans who greatly appreciated the recognition and enjoyed their time with the members of Post 32. Our goal is to ensure veterans of all eras and stages of life know that their service means something to us here at Post 32 and even if they cannot come to the post, we know they are out there, and we are willing to go to them. The nursing facilities have been kind enough to support us in this endeavor and have reported it has been good for the veterans in their care. As such, we hope to expand this program and continue to reach out to the veterans in nursing facilities in our area. (See Pictures on Page 5.)

Friends of the American Legion Family and Sponsors of The Morning Report – Thank you!



Support Your American Legion Family at Post 32 Post 32 Gets Money Back on Your Purchase

Post 32 can use your help! You can purchase these attractive and versatile garments, demonstrate your service to Veterans and help Post 32. Visit the website: ALPOST32.NONPROFITNEST.COM

Gentiva Veterans Hospice Care Jessica Covey, Volunteer Manager

We are asking for Veteran Volunteers for our hospice Veteran patients. We understand how important Veteran services are to our Veteran patients and would like to honor them during this transitional time in their lives.

You could volunteer 1-2 hours every couple of weeks by visiting a Veteran patient that would be assigned to you. You could help by sharing a story, playing a game, or something as simple as discussing your experiences in the U.S. Armed Forces. This gives patient families time to step away for a moment to themselves.

At Gentiva we honor our Veteran patients by doing a pinning ceremony and taking a flag to the patient's home to honor them during their final moments. Please consider volunteering for our team as well. Contact me for more information.

Jessica Covey, Volunteer Manager
Gentiva Hospice
2815 Old Jacksonville Road #202
Springfield Il, 62704
Office [\(217\) 525-6200](tel:2175256200)
Cell [\(217\) 502-1823](tel:2175021823)

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The Gaming Room offers **free** Soft Drinks, **free** Coffee, **free** Hot Chocolate, and **free** Snacks to Gamers. You should also sign up for the **free** Give Aways offered by Prairie State Gaming. Each time you visit be sure to get your Card punched for a **free** Meal. 10 punches get you a **free** lunch or **free** “All You Can Eat” Spaghetti Dinner on Wednesday or **free** Chicken Dinner on Thursday or **free** Walleye Dinner on Friday.

You can sign up once a day, every day that you come in for our free 4th Wednesday Drawing where we give away a 32” Color TV; a \$50 Gift Certificate and a \$25 Gift Certificate.