

# Donors

A & B Printing  
Aaron Sales & Lease  
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Alice Towers  
AmeriCall  
American Legion Post 837  
AMVETS National Headquarters  
Ann Flick  
Anthony Bigger  
Anthony Janusas  
Aramark  
Arthur Holloway  
Artistic Embroidery Creations  
Aspen Dental  
Attio Angellotti  
B. Palmer  
B. Panczyk  
Bank Of America  
Bellock & Coogan  
BJ Grand Salon & Spa  
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Brian Winfield  
Bridgecare Suites  
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Butler Funeral Homes  
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C. Smith  
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Charlie Parker's Diner  
Charmaine Murphy  
Chelsea Vale  
Cheryl Weglewski  
Chesapeake Seafood  
Christian Fanetti  
Christopher Studebaker  
Chuck Jennings  
CID Floral  
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Citizens for Durkin  
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Cochlear Implant Awareness Foundation  
Combined Veteran's Association  
Conn's Hospitality  
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Cozy Dog  
Crown Plaza  
Crown Trophy  
Curve Inn  
CVA of Illinois

Darrel Tucker  
Dave Koehler  
David Hicks  
David Parkhill  
DaVita Dialysis  
Dawn Belluss  
Dawn Murphy  
Dennis Johnson  
Dennis McFadden  
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Elsie Flerlage  
Ernie Acilts  
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Friends John Cavaletto  
Friends Larry Walsh  
Friends of Dave Koehler  
Friends of John Sullivan  
Friends of Linda Chapa LaVia  
G. Cristiano  
George Bales  
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Gregory Harris  
H. G. Jost  
Hannah Dolash  
Harlow Pues  
Hartwell Finacial  
Hoovers Manufacturing  
Humana Market Point  
Illinois Fraternal Order of Police State Lodge  
Illinois State University Veteran & Military Service  
Illinois Telecommunications Access Corporation  
Illinois Veterans Cash Lottery Grant  
J. Dopler  
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J. Tyner  
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James Rogers  
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Jennifer Hinterscher  
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Jill Goldsmith  
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Norman Bess  
P. Schneek  
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Pam Simantz  
Paralyzed Veterans of America  
Patricia Fedor Hinds  
Post 3  
Post 4  
Post 8  
Post 14  
Post 18  
Post 32  
Post 34  
Post 35  
Post 43  
Post 52  
Post 66  
Post 67  
Post 90  
Post 100  
Post 204  
Post 245  
Post 269  
Post 270  
President Abraham Lincoln Double Tree by Hilton  
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Rotary Club of Highland  
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Rotary Club of Kewanee  
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S. Entwistle  
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Scott Teague  
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Shirley Boecker  
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Springfield Clock Shop  
Springfield Mass Transit District  
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Steve Sherbondy  
Tammy Queen  
Terry Nogaard  
Terry Palmer  
Thomas Kirchner  
Tom Foley  
Tom Hanson  
Tom Kowalski  
Tony Altieri  
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Travis Lipe  
Vertical Communications  
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William Buckner  
William Scheffel  
Young's Security  
Zimmer Electric

# Financials

## Statement of Activities Illinois AMVETS Service Foundation August 1st, 2015 to July 31st, 2016

Income	
Fundraising	\$3,319,356.63
Rent	\$12,000.00
Interest	\$5,354.30
Donations	\$31,903.57
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,368,919.50</b>

Expense	
Program Services	\$2,509,678.21
Fundraising Expenses	\$868,245.98
Administrative	\$195,284.68
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$3,573,208.87</b>

Net Ordinary Income (\$204,289.37)

Net Assets at the beginning of the FY \$2,056,108  
Net Assets at end of FY \$1,891,977



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### Staff

Executive Director  
Keith Wetherell

Communications Director  
Ashley Murphy

Membership Director  
Jessica Sleek

Programs Director  
Crystal Blakeman

Veterans Service Department  
Service Director  
George Sebastian

North Chicago  
Harold Dukala

Chicago  
Joel Varela

Danville  
Mark Grogan

Marion  
Ed Humphrey

Chicago VA Regional Office  
Connie DeLeonardis



# AMVETS Department of Illinois Annual Report 2015-2016

AMVETS Department of Illinois :: Illinois AMVETS Service Foundation :: Illinois AMVETS Healthcare Facility

AMVETS Department of Illinois  
2200 South Sixth St.  
Springfield, IL 62703

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SPRINGFIELD, IL



# Board of Directors

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Joseph White

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Norman Bess

## Trustees

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\*FY 15-16 Listing

## Dear Friends,

The Board of Directors and I are pleased to present the 2015-2016 Annual Report. It's been a few years since we have put one out, and we are happy to be able to once again provide a comprehensive look at our year.

2015 marked our 70th Anniversary as the AMVETS Department of Illinois. Back in 1945, we were formed with a dual purpose: to create a place of camaraderie and kinship for our veterans, and to serve other veterans and support the community. Our purpose has remained the same, as we are a group of men and women dedicated to carrying out the AMVETS mission of improving the lives of our nation's veterans and the communities in which they live.

While our membership has remained consistent for the most part, our other programs and services have grown over the years. Since our establishment as a membership organization, our purposes have expanded with the creation of the Illinois AMVETS Service Foundation and Illinois AMVETS Health Care Facility. We have dug deeper into serving communities, especially focusing on healthcare services provided by the Illinois Department Veterans Affairs facilities. Our grants focus on rehabilitation services for veterans, stepping in to supplement the VA in various ways. This year, we're especially proud of our Veterans Service Officers (VSO). Our very small group of VSOs continues to provide the most exemplary care and service for our veterans in need.

We are a group of Veterans Serving Veterans, and, quite simply, that is what we do best. Our members know the importance of volunteering within their communities, and are active with lots of different programs.

**We remain committed to our veterans, and to the American way of life.**

Sincerely,



Richard VanNatta  
Commander  
AMVETS Department of Illinois  
2015-2016



Christopher Studebaker  
President  
Illinois AMVETS Service Foundation  
2015-2016



Anthony Altieri  
President  
Illinois AMVETS Health Care Facility  
2015-2016



Keith Wetherell  
Executive Director  
Illinois AMVETS  
2015-2016



# Community

Our mission is to support veterans and their communities. The Illinois AMVETS work to do this in two main aspects: programs and volunteering.

We pride ourselves in being veterans who serve veterans and their communities. The Illinois AMVETS Service Foundation provides grants for various programs throughout the State of Illinois.

Volunteering is the heart of AMVETS. Our volunteers spend hours at VA facilities providing support and entertainment for patients, provide honor guards for veterans funerals and assist in all sorts of community events, like parades and picnics for veterans. All of our members know the importance of volunteering, and are active in their communities.

Every year we provide scholarships for the children, grandchildren or other immediate relations of veterans in Illinois. This is consistently one of our largest programs, and in FY15-16 we gave out 25 \$1,000 scholarships. 92% of the recipients were either a child or grandchild of a veteran.

The VAVS program, or Veterans Affairs Voluntary Services, is also a key area of support for the Illinois AMVETS. It is a program that provides volunteers in the VA hospitals and facilities. Our volunteers provide support for veterans and augment VA staff in the facilities.

Other key grants this year were:

- The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Diabetes Research program received \$5,000. It is estimated 25% of VA patients have diabetes.
- The Hines Adaptive Sports Program is an annual program that provides a variety of games for physically disabled veterans. This is the 36th year for the games, and over 65 veterans attended. \$5,000 was provided to support this program.
- Illinois AMVETS provides \$5,000 to Illinois AMVETS Post 245's Annual Veterans Picnic. 500 hospitalized veterans came from four different VA medical facilities to participate in this free veterans event. This was the 29th year for the picnic.
- Since 1987, AMVETS has provided student scholarships to attend an unique educational experience at the Freedoms Foundation in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. Five students were selected to attend, where they were encouraged to gain a better appreciation of their freedoms granted by the United States Constitution. The Illinois AMVETS Service Foundation annually selects deserving high school students to attend this event representing Illinois AMVETS and its members.



**9,004 volunteers**  
**40,072 hours**  
**\$1.4 million valued service**

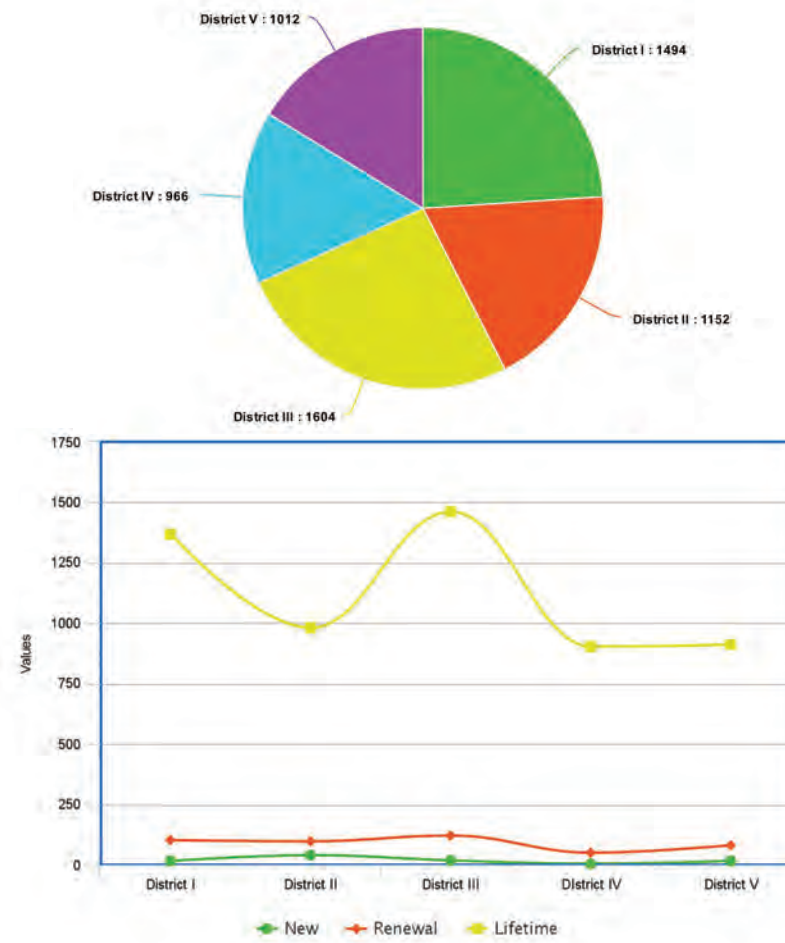
# Membership

Illinois AMVETS membership has remained steady over the last several years. It retained 88.4% of its membership from the previous fiscal year. Our Members-At-Large increased by 118%.

We have a total of 68 posts throughout Illinois, in 38 counties. Those counties include: Adams, Bond, Bureau, Champaign, Christian, Clinton, Cook, County Crawford, DeKalb, DeWitt, Ford, Grundy, Jefferson, Jersey, Kane, Kankakee, Knox, Lake, LaSalle Lee, Livingston, Madison, McHenry, McLean, Menard, Montgomery, Morgan, Peoria, Rock Island, Sangamon, St. Clair, Stephenson, Tazewell, Vermillion, Will, Williamson and Winnebago.

In each district, life members accounted for 85% or greater of the total membership.

Illinois AMVETS, like many Veteran Service Organizations, faces a challenge of recruiting and retaining new and younger members. With the creation of programs geared toward younger veterans in the coming fiscal year, we hope to see significant increases in new members.



# Veteran Services

Our Illinois AMVETS Veterans Service Officers (VSO) are the best in the State of Illinois. We truly believe that. With only six in the entirety of Illinois, these men and women provide comprehensive help and unparalleled support to veterans every single day.

Our VSOs have offices in Chicago, North Chicago, Hines, Danville, Peoria and Marion, Illinois. Several of our VSOs travel on a weekly basis so they are available to veterans in different communities consistently.

In FY15-16, Illinois AMVETS VSOs filed a total of 1,876 claims. This averages out to 313 claims per VSO, or 156 claims per month. In the Chicagoland area alone, 71 claims per month were filed with the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs.

When Illinois AMVETS VSOs assist a veteran, they aren't just helping the individual. Their assistance helps the veteran receive the maximum amount of benefits he or she deserves, which helps support his or her family as well.

Since 2005, our small cadre of VSOs have filed nearly 22,500 claims!

