



# AMVETS Department of Illinois Annual Report 2016-2017

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

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## Dear Friends,

We are excited to present the 2016-2017 Annual Report. It's important to us to give you, our supporters, a snapshot of all that we have accomplished in the last fiscal year.

As we have for the last 71 years, our volunteers remain committed to serving veterans in their communities. Their participation in parades and holiday festivities is only a small portion of what the AMVETS are doing in the State of Illinois. Our volunteers work tirelessly with veterans in hospitals and nursing homes to assure these veterans that they are thought about and cared for in big and small ways. From providing the facilities with much needed equipment to hosting monthly bingo games, the AMVETS show up!

This past year we have created an Illinois AMVETS Career Center that has thrived in Southern Illinois. Well surpassing its yearly goal of job placements, the Career Center in Marion is leading the nation in job placements for AMVETS and continues to grow and serve more veterans.

We have also branched out and began working with other veteran-minded groups to reach younger veterans. We, like many Veterans Service Organizations, realize that in order to be sustainable, we must recruit younger veterans to our ranks. By pairing up with Freedom Golf Association to hold a disabled veteran golfing event and HOOAH Deer Hunt for Heroes, we are specifically reaching out to younger members of our veteran family to show our support.

We remain committed to our veterans, and to the American way of life. We can't do this without you, and want to say thank you.

**Your support each year means we are able to give back to those who risked their lives to give us our freedom.**

Sincerely,

Richard Shea Jr.  
Commander  
AMVETS Department of Illinois  
2016-2017

Richard VanNatta  
President  
Illinois AMVETS Service Foundation  
2016-2017

Anthony Altieri  
President  
Illinois AMVETS Health Care Facility  
2016-2017

Keith Wetherell  
Executive Director  
Illinois AMVETS  
2016-2017



The Illinois AMVETS prides itself on serving fellow veterans, their families, and the communities in which they live. Our local posts work hand-in-hand with community leaders and other veterans-minded groups to provide assistance and care by helping with a variety of functions, supporting veteran events, spending time in schools to educate children and sitting with hospitalized veterans. As a department, we strive to create over-reaching programs to serve veterans throughout the state. Here's a highlight of four programs we are especially proud of being a part of this year.



### Operation Red Sleigh

Operation Red Sleigh is a holiday giving program created by the Illinois AMVETS Service Foundation to assist in providing a holiday meal and gifts for Illinois families of veterans and active-duty service members. Selected families will receive a holiday meal, 1 gift per adult and up to 3 gifts per child. We were able to assist 31 veteran or active-duty families throughout 25 different Illinois communities.

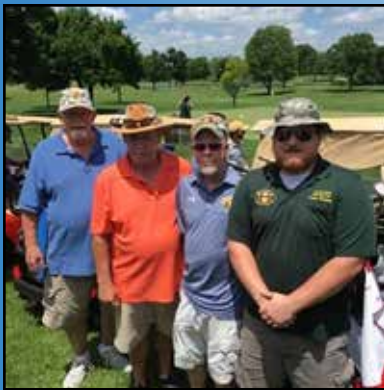
36,000  
volunteer  
hours

### Veterans Scholarships

The Illinois AMVETS Service Foundation is committed to supporting educational goals of our Illinois veterans. Our Veteran Scholarship has been established to invest in their education. The scholarship can be utilized for books, housing expenses, school fees, and tuition. 10 veterans were awarded \$2,000 scholarships. Combined, they served over 53 years in the United States military and 50% were supporting 1 or more dependents.



8,002  
volunteers



### Golfing for Disabled Veterans

The Illinois AMVETS partnered with the Freedom Golf Association (FGA) to help wounded Veterans suffering from PTSD or physical disabilities regain confidence, focus, joy and the feeling of community through Veteran Golf Clinics. During these clinics, FGA's trained adaptive golf coaches individualize the experience to meet each Vets needs. These Veterans have become friends with each other and share their lives and joy of golfing together while overcoming obstacles.

\$1.47  
million  
value of  
programs

### HOOAH Deer Hunt for Heroes

Illinois AMVETS has created a partnership with HOOAH Deer Hunt for Heroes. HOOAH is a non-profit that centers its mission on providing outdoor activities for disabled veterans and their families. Throughout the year, hunting and fishing events are open to veterans and their families. Illinois AMVETS has partnered to assist in an annual crossbow hunt last October. We were able to assist in supporting eight veterans for this hunt.



3,000  
volunteer  
hours per  
month

# Veteran Services



Our Illinois AMVETS Veterans Service Officers (VSO) are the best in the State of Illinois. We truly believe that. With only five 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.

From August 2016- May 2017, Illinois AMVETS VSOs filed a total of **1,055 claims**. This averages out to **211 claims per VSO**, or 88 claims per month.

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.

# Career Center

The Illinois AMVETS Career Center opened in July of 2016 in Marion, Illinois. The only AMVETS Career Center in Illinois, it has been remarkably successful!

From July 2016-August 2017, this Career Center has found job placements for **57 veterans seeking employment**. The Career Center does this not only by working with veterans to help them improve resumes, apply for jobs and teach interviewing skills, but also by working with companies in the community to encourage the hiring of veterans.

Nationally, AMVETS has 11 Career Centers. **The Illinois AMVETS Career Center accounts for 10% of all job placements nationally.** This is quite an accomplishment for a Career Center that only has one dedicated part-time employee at its helm.

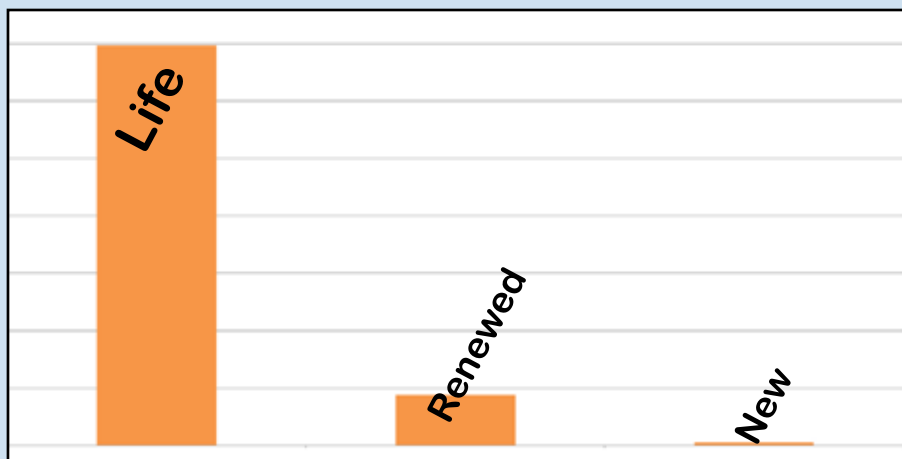
The Career Center in Marion plays an important role in what AMVETS does to serve veterans: help those who need a little assistance get back on their feet and back into society.



# Membership



Illinois AMVETS membership has remained steady over the last several years. We have just over 9,700 members in Illinois, with 85% of that being lifetime members and 11% renewed members. The smallest area of membership is new members.



# Donors

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Dawn Nims  
Jocelyn Piper  
Post 100  
Post 113  
Post 13  
Post 14  
Post 192  
Post 204  
Post 235  
Post 245  
Post 277  
Post 34  
Post 35  
Post 4  
Post 43  
Post 61  
Post 66  
Post 77

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**Thank you to our  
generous supporters!**



# Financials

## Statement of Activities Illinois AMVETS Service Foundation August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016 to July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017

### Income:

Fundraising	\$2,992,861
Rent	\$12,500
Interest	\$5,736
<u>Donations</u>	<u>\$25,160</u>
Total:	\$3,036,257

### Expense:

Program Services	\$2,545,006
Fundraising Expense	\$859,750
<u>Administrative</u>	<u>\$191,098</u>
Total:	\$3,595,854

Net Ordinary Income (\$559,597)

Net Assets at the beginning of the fiscal year \$1,891,977

Net assets at the end of fiscal year \$1,257,269



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[www.ilamvets.org](http://www.ilamvets.org)



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Chicago VA Regional Office  
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Coordinator  
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