



**South County
SPOTLIGHT**

St. Patrick Catholic Charities - Tolono IL Free Food Pantry Every Monday from 5-6:30 and Friday 9-10:30 -Located at the Parish - providing Fresh produce, meat and pantry items. Serving all of Champaign County

The Giving Place is open every Wednesday from 4pm-6pm in Tolono to help families in need with food items.

3rd Thursday of every month - Tolono Fun Day Committee meet at 6:30 @ Police Station

VFW of Villa Grove Bingo Every Friday Night @ 7pm

2/2 Groundhog Day
2/7 Village of Sidney Board Meeting @7pm

2/7 Active Senior Republicans Meeting at 9:30 at the Champaign Public Library in the Robeson Pavilion Room A&B

2/10 Tolono Library Cards of Kindness event from noon-6pm

2/11 Daddy-Daughter Sweetheart Dance @ St. Thomas More HS from 6:30-8:30, all are welcome 217-202-0998 or leibach@gmail.com for more information

2/14 Valentine's Day
2/15 Unity Music Boosters Meeting @ 7pm in the Band Room at UHS

2/21 Sidney American Legion Meeting @ 6pm

2/26 Unity Music Boosters All Out A Capella Annual Fundraiser at 4pm and 7pm @ UHS

2/26 Sidney Fire Protection District Annual Chili Dinner 4:00pm-7:00pm at the Sidney Fire Station

If you have an upcoming event that you would like to see featured in Spotlight email us at: jamie@thetuscolajournal.com

Sidney American Legion Hosts American Legion Department of Illinois Membership Caravan

By Ann Rhoton SCCTP News Correspondent

Excitement and enjoyment of camaraderie were in the air at the Sidney American Legion Post 433 when they hosted the last stop of the American Legion Department of Illinois Membership Caravan on Saturday, January 22.

American Legion Department of Illinois officers including American Legion Department of Illinois Senior Vice Commander Lomac Payton, American Legion Department of Illinois Auxiliary President Patti Williamson, American Legion Department of Illinois Sons of the American Legion Detachment Commander Jeff Trout, and special guest American Legion National Vice Commander Jerrold "Jerry" Wilson were all on hand to speak.

Other American Legion Department of Illinois officers and members of the American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, Sons of the Ameri-

can Legion, and American Legion Riders from around the state of Illinois were in attendance to hear from meeting speakers and to hand in membership cards.

The program began at 6:00 p.m. and American Legion National Executive Committeeman from the state of Illinois Wayne Erickson was the master of ceremonies for the evening.

Sidney American Legion Post 433 Commander Bill Hensch addressed those in attendance following opening ceremonies and a prayer from Department of Illinois Chaplain Mark Friedman by thanking everyone for coming and stating that it was an honor to host the last stop of the Department of Illinois Membership Caravan.

Commander Hensch additionally stated that he would like to award a certificate to a Post 433 member for 50 years of membership and asked American Legion National Vice Commander Jerrold Wilson to present the 50-year certificate to Robert Reifsteck.



Left to right American Legion Department of Illinois Commander Wayne Fischer, Senior Vice Commander Lomac Payton, master of ceremonies and American Legion National Committeeman Wayne Erickson at the podium, Auxiliary President Patti Williamson, Sons of the American Legion Detachment Commander Jeff Trout, and American Legion National Vice Commander Jerrold Wilson. Photo by Ann Rhoton.

All in attendance provided applause as the certificate was presented. Congratulations Robert!

American Legion Department of Illinois Commander Wayne Fischer who grew up on a farm in southwest Minnesota and served in the United States Marine Corps was the first speaker of the evening and he spoke about his special "Embrace the Challenge" project for his year as American Legion Department of Illinois Commander. He asked for donations large or small to keep building the American Legion Illinois Disaster Relief Fund. Contributions to this fund ensure that monies are available in times of need; i.e., tornadoes, flooding, and other unforeseen disasters

that can strike in an instant.

Donation forms were available at the meeting and contributions can be sent to The American Legion Department of Illinois, 2720 E. Lincoln Street, Bloomington, IL 61704 with checks earmarked "Commander" Special Project-American Legion Illinois Disaster Relief Fund in the memo field.

American Legion Department of Illinois Commander Wayne Fischer also spoke about helping Kentucky with their tornado damage and related that those who want to help with that could send checks earmarked for Kentucky Tornado Relief in the memo field.

In closing he spoke about the focus of the American Legion Department of Il-

linois Membership Caravan being membership and went on to relay that he had been informed by the Department of Veterans affairs that there are 700,000 veterans in Illinois eligible to be members of the American Legion. With that said he outlined his 2022 "New Legionnaire" Membership Campaign. Brochures explaining the campaign were available at the meeting. Folks can also call (309) 663-0361 for more information. Commander Fischer also spoke about retaining post membership and buddy checks.

The American Legion Department of Illinois Auxiliary President Patti Williamson spoke about her special project for the year, the National Veterans Cre-

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Left to right American Legion National Vice Commander Jerrold Wilson presents Sidney American Legion Post 433 member Robert Reifsteck with a 50-year membership certificate of appreciation award Saturday, January 22. Photo by Ann Rhoton.

Heritage High School Winter Concert Performance



On the evening of January 26th Heritage High School held their long awaited winter concert.

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