



2014 Annual Report

Membership

In 2014 the Society added 2 Life Members.









Society Mission

The **Illinois National Guard & Militia Historical Society** preserves and presents the history, traditions and spirit of the Illinois National Guard and Militia by supporting programs designed to educate current and former Guard members and our communities of the historic contributions of the Illinois citizen-soldiers in peace and wartime.

Society Goals

In order to achieve our mission, we have identified four specific goals:

- 1. Establish a secure future for the Illinois National Guard & Militia Historical Society.
- 2. Expand the depth of resources provided by the Society.
- Secure and provide funding for first-class exhibits at the Illinois State Military Museum in order to preserve, honor and display the history of Illinois Militia and National Guard.
- 4. Improve the visibility and awareness of the Illinois State Military Museum by promoting and expanding access to the Museum.

Museum Attendance

Attendance at the Illinois State Military Museum rose **64%** in 2013 and **9%** in 2014.

Events and Scheduled Groups

What a busy year! We had **116** scheduled visits and events.

Student Visits

2651 students visited the Museum as part of group tours. Most groups experienced the Living History Detachment volunteers. Planned visits for 2015 will make this number jump well in excess of **6000.**





Society Staff

The Illinois National Guard & Militia Historical Society has one full-time staff member and two part-time staff. The executive director handles business matters, performs fundraising, holds special events, handles public relations activities, outreach, website maintenance, social media and supports daily activities inside the museum.

Part-time staff serve as docents when the Museum is open and assist Museum Curator, Bill Lear, conserve and display artifacts. These staff members play a key role in coordination of special tours for group visits. They coordinate the activities of the Living History Detachment and prospect for new group visitors.

In 2014 Society staff assumed a new role. Society staff now work on flag conservation projects.

Society employees are continually working with other historic sites and outside groups to increase Museum attendance. Our unfair advantage has become our personal approach to making each group visit memorable.

Each day at the Illinois State Military Museum is an adventure. On a regular basis, retired military members and their families call and visit the museum to donate treasures. This is a time consuming, yet important process. These treasures represent important keepsakes of the soldier's whose stories we tell.

Volunteers

The Museum and Society added **3 new volunteers** & **3** college interns working with artifacts.

Increased National Guard Presence

The Illinois State Military Museum has become a venue for an increasing number of activities in conjunction with the Illinois National Guard. We have hosted promotion ceremonies, retirement events, officer training, new recruit events and receptions for The Adjutant General. We have involved active duty soldiers and equipment in our presentations.



School & Adult Tour Groups

The number of school bus trips continues to grow. A number of new schools visited for the first time in 2014. We work closely with tour companies and the Springfield Tourism Bureau to increase the number of school groups.







Off Site Presentations

During 2014 the Society sponsored 5 offsite presentations.

E-Mail Marketing/ Facebook

The Society continues to grow. Our periodic e-newsletters drive people to events .The Society continues to grow our email list.. The Society has funded Facebook paid advertisements to increase Museum page Likes. Facebook page likes equate to event attendees.

Charles Munie Citizen Soldier Fund

In 2014 we raised the remaining \$10,000 of a \$20,000 matching gift from a private foundation.. The Charles Munie Citizens Soldier Program Endowment Fund will serve as the signature fund for all future bequests. In 2014 the Illinois State Military Museum and the Society have worked to enhance their relationship with local tourism officials. More and more student and adult groups find their way to "**previously one of the best kept secrets in Springfield**!"









2014Events

Soldier's Aid Society

Militia to National Guard

Desert Storm Remembrance

Behind the Scenes Tour

Vietnam Encampment

Border Campaign

First Annual Military Vehicle Show

Lincoln and the Blackhawk War

Blackhawk the Man

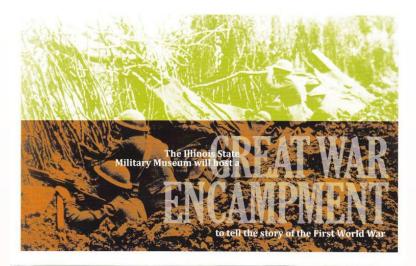
233rd Back From Baghdad

Inside the Gates

Great War Encampment

Christmas at the Front

2014 Signature Events



The Society sponsors the **Great War Encampment**. This event has grown to become one of the most popular WWI reenactment events in the Midwest.



2014 Military Vehicle Show

In 2014 the Society sponsored the First Annual Military Vehicle Show featuring a combination of modern day and historic vehicles.



2014 Signature Events

Christmas at the Front Experience a Soldier's Christmas in the trenches of WWI. Walk the recreated trench,





The Society sponsors Christmas at the Front each December. This event is an educational and entertaining holiday event. We have lectures on a soldier's life during the holidays, our trench is decorated and living historians take participants back in time to WWI. Hot cider, cookies, holiday music and a tree surrounded with Toys For Tots provide a special holiday feel. This event is becoming an annual tradition for a growing number of Central Illinois families.





Flag Conservation

The Illinois State Military Museum presently has a collection of 960 plus battle flags in an environmentally controlled room in Building 22 on Camp Lincoln. The Society works with community groups to raise funds to conserve these flags. In early 2014 three flag conservation was started on three flags.

In early 2014 Museum and Society staff received specialized training from a Minnesota conservator. Flags previously were sent to Albany, New York for conservation now can be conserved in house.









Illinois State Military Museum Living History Detachment

The Society actively supports the work of the Illinois State Military Museum Living History Detachment. The detachment brings the history to life for thousands of visitors each year.



Looking to 2015

- Museum attendance projected to grow 30-50% driven by huge increase in school groups
- New signature event— Used Military Book Sale
- New Signature event— WWII
 Encampment
- New event— re-enactor uniform/equipment sale
- Expand Military Vehicle Show
- Expand Vietnam Encampment
- Expand Christmas at the Front to two days
- Complete conservation of three Civil War
 Flags
- Gun raffle to raise money to support flag conservation efforts
- Annual event inviting volunteers and employees from local historic sites to museum
- Bequest Society mailings & events to grow endowments