



From the Acting Director Rodrigo Garcia

It's official!!! **Illinois Governor Pat Quinn** signed the **IJF Foundation Act** into law in late August. The Act allows **Illinois Joining Forces** to build upon the amazing work our partner organizations have been doing for the past two years by providing IJF with additional flexibility and tools to support you and the military and veteran community. As a result, the IDVA is a proud supporter of the **Illinois Joining Forces Foundation**.

On September 3rd, in accordance with the IJF Foundation Act, the newly formed Board of Directors selected its leadership and adopted the Articles of Incorporation. Upon filing with the Secretary of State of Illinois, IJF will become the public not-for-profit organization that can continue to serve our veterans, service members, and their families with greater momentum.

In the weeks ahead, IJF will establish its organizational by-laws, compile annual reports for FY 2013 and FY 2014 [to showcase our amazing work], and draft operating policies. In the months ahead, we plan to hire an Executive Director, add value-based programming for our members,

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perform web upgrades, institute operational processes, and construct a long-term strategic plan. We will be sure to share additional information and details in coming newsletters, but this all means that IJF will have more robust capabilities in the future to provide support to our veterans, military and their families - all across Illinois.

The IDVA and DMA staffs will continue to provide support to IJF and our network of partners as the Foundation's operations are solidified, to ensure that this organization launches successfully at every step. On behalf of the Board of Directors and the Leadership Team, we look forward to building and sustaining the world-class organization you have come to trust and the value you have come to expect.

Board Officers:

IJFF Chair	Rodrigo Garcia	Acting Director, IDVA and Chair, IJF
IJFF Vice Chair	Amy Sherman	Chair, IJF Education Working Group
IJFF Secretary	Bridget Altenburg	Chair, IJF Employment & Job Training Working Group
IJFF Treasurer	Tom Miller	Chair, IJF Behavioral Health Working Group

Getting Veterans to Work Hiring Our Heroes and other Events



Getting Veterans to Work

Hiring Our Heroes Chicago- Sept. 18 !

Looking for work, or know a veteran, military or family member looking for a great job? Now's your chance!

With veteran employment as one of our top priorities for veterans, the IDVA team is working with the **US Chamber of Commerce**, **Aon** and the **Illinois Department of Employment Security** as a host to the **Sept. 18 Hiring Our Heroes Hiring Fair - Chicago** hiring event. This **no-cost** event - which utilizes a proven, innovative model featuring candidate pre-screening, applicant-employer matching, and onsite interviews - will put veteran job-seekers in interaction with over **93 registered employers**, with over **300 job openings** right now.

And starting at 8:30 a.m., veterans can attend an **Employment Workshop** that provides one-on-one mentoring and resume-writing tools for job-seekers. And then at 10:00am, come and attend one of the premier hiring fairs in the region and engage an employer with verified job openings! Don't forget to take time to register with our VSO team and **Stand Up and Be Counted** or come by and meet **IDVA's acting Director Garcia** whom will be on-hand to meet with attendees. The first 300 event attendees will be provided with complimentary parking [Grant Park North & South; Millennium Lakeside & Park Garages] to maximize your opportunities to become employed!

Register today and tell a friend!

Four Great AmeriCorps Opportunities with the IDVA

The Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs (IDVA) is pleased to announce that **four openings** for **AmeriCorps** positions associated with the **Points of Light Veteran Leader Corps**. We are actively seeking qualified applicants (civilian or veteran) to apply for these high-level, full-time service opportunity in our downtown **Chicago and Springfield offices**.

The **Veteran Leader Corps** is a unique AmeriCorps program dedicated to supporting organizations that are developing meaningful service opportunities and cultivating job readiness for veterans and military families. IDVA's Veteran Leader Corps members will actively engage this mission, providing critical assistance to veterans confronted with challenges related to joblessness, housing, reintegration, and other issues.

Note that **these are not state jobs; it's a service opportunity** dedicated to supporting and generating positive outcomes for the veteran community. The position starts on October 6, 2014 and concludes on Sept. 4, 2015, with the possibility to renew for 11 additional months.

POSITION TITLES AND LOCATIONS:

- **Communications Specialist** (Chicago)
- **Employment Support & Communications Specialist** (Chicago)
- **IJFF Program Manager**(Chicago)
- **IJFF Program Manager**(Springfield)

COMPENSATION/BENEFITS:

- A living allowance of \$12,100 for 11-month service period
- Health and dental insurance;
- Possibility of AmeriCorps Education Award upon successful completion of service, \$5,550 prorated for length of term;
- Child care subsidy, if eligible;
- Participation in Points of Light Corps Member Training Institute; and
- The opportunity to work with senior Department managers, to lead people and high-impact projects, and to build professional skills in a number of specialized areas.

DEADLINE TO APPLY: 5:00 p.m. CDT on **Friday, Sept. 26, 2014.**

HOW TO APPLY: Individuals looking to apply must submit their application through the **My AmeriCorps Portal webpage**.

Your IDVA Calendar

Sept. 17	Constitution Day	
Sept. 17	Doing Business with the State: CMS Vet Business Program	East St. Louis, IL
Sept. 18	Hiring Our Heroes Hiring Fair & Workshop	Chicago, IL
	Veteran Fall-In Event	Wheaton, IL
Sept. 26	AmeriCorps Job Applications Close MedTech and BioTech Veterans Program	Chicago & Springfield, IL Baxter International Inc., Deerfield, IL
Sept. 28	Gold Star Mother's Day	
Sept. 30	Hiring Our Heroes Hiring Fair & Workshop Veterans' Family Resource Fair - Elgin CC	Aurora, IL Elgin, IL
Oct. 13	Columbus Day	State Offices Closed
Oct. 15	Procurement Showcase for Veteran-Owned Businesses	West Side Technical Institute Chicago, IL
Oct. 16	Boots to Business: A Business Plan Writing Clinic	SBA, Chicago, IL
Nov. 4	Election Day - Vote!	
Nov. 10	Veterans' & Individuals with Disabilities Job Fair	Northwestern University, IL
	Honoring Women Veterans	Skokie, IL
Nov. 11	Veterans' Day	State Offices Closed

This newsletter is produced by the **Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs**, and helps keep our veterans and their families informed about IDVA activities, events and programs to empower veterans and their families to thrive. The IDVA does this by assisting them in navigating the system of federal state and local resources and benefits; by providing long-term health care for eligible veterans in our Veterans' Homes; and by partnering with other agencies and non-profits to help veterans address education, mental health, housing, employment, and other challenges.