

Welcome to the American Legion
FIRST DIVISION



COMMANDER
JOSEPH P. LAMPERT

First Division is Online
at

<http://www.ilfirstdivision.org>



Newsletter for August 2018

First Division Commander Joseph P. Lampert

Comrades,
With the 100th Annual Department Convention in the books, it is time to hit the ground running!

To use a couple of excerpts from the membership letter from the Department of Arkansas: ***“Let’s take time to reflect on why we, as an individual, joined the organization and why we have continued as a member. Then let’s take those thoughts and share them with our non-member veteran friends and encourage them to become a part of our great organization. Let’s use those thoughts and feelings to encourage our new Legionnaires to renew their 2019 membership and show them how to become involved in the Post.”***

We have many programs in the Legion Family. No one Post can manage all of them. Stick with ones that work for you, and DO THEM WELL! Talk to each other! Find out what programs other Posts are championing. Refer people to those Posts if it’s not a program that you manage. Remember, the goal here is to direct people to the right contact!

Year after year we get thousands of suggestions on what we could or should do. However, in my opinion, we don’t necessarily see these ideas all the way through. KEEP THE SUGGESTIONS COMING! We, as a Division, will take on

a handful of them and COMPLETE THEM!

The 1st Division Installation will be held on August 12, 2018 at Morton Grove Post #134, 6144 W. Dempster St., Morton Grove, 60053. Cocktails at 4:00 pm, installation at 5:00 pm with dinner to follow. Cost is \$25.00 per person. Make your checks payable to the 1st Division. On the memo line indicate INSTALLATION. Mail to the attention of Bernie Darmetko Finance Officer, P.O. Box #280 Riverside, IL, 60546.

For those who are attending the National Convention in Minneapolis, the parade shirt is the 100 year anniversary shirt (or dark blue shirt) and tan (khaki) pants.

I am honored to serve as the 1st Division Commander and look forward to working hand in hand with you and our Auxiliary, Sons and Legion Riders to make our 100th Anniversary a banner year!

Still Serving America

Joseph P. Lampert

First Division Sr. Vice Commander Gigi Callaway

It will be an honor to serve as your Senior Vice-Commander of the First Division. I thank you again for your vote and confidence. The goal this year to bring everyone to the finish-line together. One may ask, "What goal? What finish-line?" So, glad you asked! We are in our 100th year as an organization. The goal is 100 percent membership for our 100th year anniversary and we start now. Let's begin the year strong by identifying at least 3 posts in each District that ended this last Legion year with the lowest percentage.

There are two dates in August which have been set aside for conference calls to plan our strategy. We know that posts, just like communities, may have variables so what may work strongly in one post may not bode well for another. Nevertheless, there are commonalities which have been successful for a multitude of posts and can be immediately adopted. It is asked that District Officers confirm one of the time slots on either Sunday, August 5th or 19th at the following times: 1 pm; 2:30 pm; 4 pm; 5:30 pm. Connect with me via Division email at **ILLFirstdivision@gmail.com** (This will be on a first come first serve basis. Once that slot has been reserved it will not be available. Suggest you have more than one date and time in mind.) Additionally, please ensure that you include [on that call] your District Membership Committee and post officers

and for those posts referred supra.

Training for all posts are in the planning stage. Here is the **goal is for everyone -100 percent** by close of books for 2018-2019 Legion year. Our first measure is to have everyone reaching 40 percent or more by **American Legion Day**, September 16th; second goal measure is 75 percent by **Veterans Day**; third goal measure 85 percent by 2018 (**end of year, December 31st**); 90 percent by **January 31st**; and 100 percent by March 15th, **American Legion Birthday**.

Let's make it happen!
Looking forward to seeing everyone at Installation.

Warm regards,

Gigi Callaway

First Division Jr. Vice Commander Al Pizarro

Greetings to all Members of the Legion, Auxiliary, SAL and Legion Riders, I hope everyone is enjoying their summer!! My name is Al Pizarro. I am your First Division Jr. Vice Commander for Legion Year 2018-2019. I appreciate your confidence in me. I will do my best to help the First Division shine this year. As First Division Jr Vice, I will be responsible for the Past Commanders Luncheon as well as the Armed Forces Day Dinner in 2019. I am currently in the process of visiting different venues for these events. Details to follow. I look forward to helping the First Division as we begin our new legion year.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns please contact me by cell; 708-655-5282 or e-mail; pzodad2@gmail.com.

Respectfully,

Al Pizarro

**VA&R Chairman and Service Officer of the First Division
Raymond P. Toczek**

The state convention is now history and I can report our First Division was outstanding regarding the resolution department. Of the 53 submitted 37 originated with posts in our Division. That represents 70% of the entire total. Only four were rejected and two were withdrawn. The rest will now go on to our

national convention where we hope they will also be approved and become part of the American Legion legislative agenda.

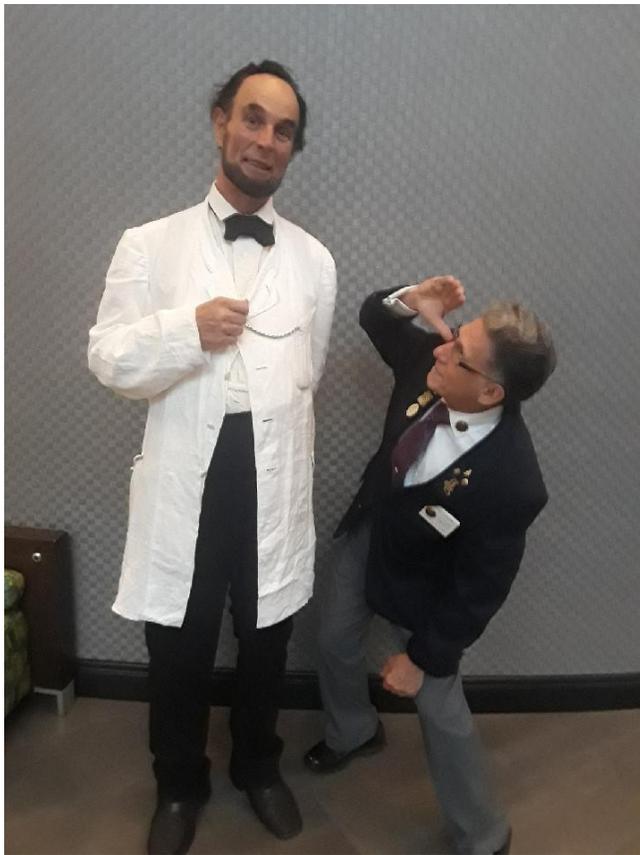
You may be wondering why two resolutions were withdrawn. Well we had two which were submitted twice in the past, approved and went on to national where they were also approved. The VA&R commission found out that since our last convention they were actually signed into law by the President. One covered extension of the Caregiver Act back to veterans of the Vietnam and Korean conflicts and World War II. The other one concerned FSAD which stands for female sexual arousal disorder. So members of the First Division you should be proud that we were able to get laws changed that will affect veterans throughout the entire country. Well done.

In the last newsletter I had four ideas which I felt you should consider when your post meetings start up again in the fall. I feel they are worth repeating.

1. Stress to your members that a legible copy of their DD 214 or separation papers should be on hand, at home and in a safe place. Be sure your next-of-kin knows where it is located. This important document will be needed to make funeral arrangements when you pass away.
2. If you wish to be interred at Abe Lincoln or any other Veterans Administration National Cemetery apply for a pre-need determination for yourself and your spouse. Use Veterans Administration form 40-10007 which can be obtained by calling the National Call Center (1-800-827-1000) of the Veterans Administration. This will confirm your eligible and you can still choose to be buried somewhere else when the time comes.
3. If any of your members have veteran friends or relatives buried at private cemeteries they can now order a government medallion reflecting their branch of service. This medallion can then be affixed directly to the private stone. That claim form is a 40-1330M and can be obtained at the same number.
4. Ask all your members who served in Vietnam if they are familiar with the medical problems caused by Agent Orange. Some of the more common ones are diabetes, coronary artery disease, certain cancers and Parkinson's disease. If they have any of these have them contact us as soon as possible to file a claim. Even one day of "boots on the ground" could qualify. Our office number is shown above.

No one is useless in this world who lightens the burdens of another.

Ray Toerek



Former President Lincoln jokes with
1st Division Commander Anthony Siciliano
at the Department Convention in July
2018

Speech from Anthony Siciliano to SAL
Detachment Commander Eugene Gort
upon his swearing in at Department
Convention July 2018.

*“Good morning Commander,
You've done Post #974, The Mighty
Ninth District and the Fighting First
Division proud. And I stand proud and
privileged to have had the opportunity
to witness you're growth. Developing
into who You are today. The Leader of
the Detachment of Illinois Sons of the
American Legion!!*

*As you now assume that mantle of
leadership, I wish to leave you with
this thought, 'Always Encourage!!
Never Discourage!!'*

*God Bless You Commander and God
Bless America.”*

Immediate Past Commander of
The Fighting First Division,
and now Aid to Department
Commander Michael Carder

Anthony J. Siciliano

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The 1st Division Installation

will be held on August 12, 2018 at Morton Grove Post #134,
6144 W. Dempster St., Morton Grove, 60053.

Cocktails at 4:00 pm, installation at 5:00 pm with dinner to follow.

Cost is \$25.00 per person.

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INSTALLATION.

Mail to the attention of Bernie Darnetko Finance Officer,
P.O. Box #280 Riverside, IL, 60546.



This Newsletter will now have a page or so dedicated to our fallen Legionaries. Title being as you see it below.

*** IN REMEMBRANCE OF OUR FALLEN LEGIONNAIRES***

We can no longer not be in the know! After all, those who do transfer into Post Everlasting are our Brothers, Sisters and family!!!!

Please send the names of Fallen Legionnaires to:
div1newsletter@yandex.com

**Palatine Memorial
 Post 690**

Hal Quist

**First Nat'l Bank of
 Chicago Post 985**

Robert Cecchi
 Roy Johnson

OFFICER CONTACT INFORMATION

**COMMANDER:
 JOE LAMPERT**

Phone: (847) 417 - 8672
 Email: the-natureboy1@comcast.net

**SENIOR VICE COMMANDER:
 GIGI CALLAWAY**

Phone: (224) 800 - 1177
 Email: ILLfirstdivision@gmail.com

**JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER:
 AL PIZARRO**

Phone: (708) 655-5282
 Email: pzodad2@gmail.com

**DIVISION ADJUTANT:
 LEONARD JAKUBIAK**

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 Email: div1adj@yandex.com

**FINANCE OFFICER:
 BERNARD DARMETKO**

Phone: (708) 860 - 1897
 Email: bcdarmetko@comcast.net

**CHAPLAIN:
 DANNY EISON**

Phone: (773) 469-9853
 Email:

**SERVICE OFFICER:
 RAYMOND TOCZEK**

Phone: (312) 980 - 4264
 Email: Raymond.toczek@va.gov

**ASSISTANT SERVICE OFFICER:
 CHARLES BOSKO**

Phone: (312) 980 - 4512
 Email: Charles.bosko@illinois.gov

We are still gathering mailing addresses for the new Post and District Commanders and Officers, please let us know those new addresses so we can make sure all correspondence goes to the correct officers so our membership receives the best information at the timeliest manner. Please send all address corrections, memorial information to me at div1newsletter@yandex.com or mail them to me at 828 N Roy Ave, Melrose Park, IL 60164.

Thank you for everything you have done, are doing and will be doing to help our great organization, The American Legion.

Shepherd, Ken Bishop

DID YOU KNOW

The American Legion Department of Illinois has a website with links to upcoming events, all the programs and events within the Department.

There are sections on Department and Membership Awards and how to apply for them. District and Division meeting dates and locations are also listed so we can see you at the meetings.

In the Media section there is an area for subscribing to the Department Newsletter – which is a great source of information for everyone from the Post/Unit/Squadron level and up. There are also archived issues so you can catch up on what you may have missed.

You can submit your organizations event photos to be published and in the Veterans Links section, you can find a lot of areas the American Legion is involved with that you most likely didn't know about that can be passed along to members.

Also, you can find, in the resources section, the decals for the Illinois Veteran License Plates to show your time of service and branch of service.

Don't forget to get your Post's website listed in the “Post Links” section under “Resources”.

<http://www.illegion.org>



First Division, Cook County Council
The American Legion,
Department of Illinois
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If you would have any issues or concerns
about the newsletter, please feel free
to contact:
Shepherd K. S. Bishop
div1newsletter@yandex.com

Monthly Publication
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