

Welcome to the American Legion
FIRST DIVISION
Newsletter



COMMANDER
JOSEPH P. LAMPERT

First Division is Online
at

<http://www.ilfirstdivision.org>



Newsletter for January 2019

First Division Commander Joseph P. Lampert

Comrades,

I hope everyone had wonderful holidays and a Happy New Year! The current membership numbers have three of our Districts in the Top Ten! Each District did show some significant increases over the last two weeks, and I commend all of the Posts that have achieved 100%! The Division is still in 4th place. This is not where WE want to be! This is not where we NEED to be! It is a new year, ladies and gentlemen, and WE need to kick it up a notch! District Commanders, you were all given a list of former members that have been out for over a year..... are your membership teams working that list?

The Department Membership Caravan will be in the 1st Division on January 20th. Let's have a great turnout to hear our immediate Past National Commander, Denise Rohan speak! This is a Legion Family event! Bring cards with you! The stops are Evanston Post 42 (8:00 am-breakfast), Franklin D Roosevelt Post 923 (10:30 am-snack) and Iliana Post 220 (1:00 pm-lunch).

The next Division meeting is February 6, 2019 at Morton Grove Post 134. Dinner at 6:30. Executive Board at 7:15, meeting at 7:30.

I look forward to seeing you on the Caravan!

Still Serving America,

Joseph P. Lampert

First Division Sr. Vice Commander Gigi Callaway

Happy New Year. This January make every effort count! The rest of the Legion year will be determined by what is done by your efforts.

Some things are worth repeating ...

ATTENTION DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS:

As you read in the article on this page our National Headquarters has authorized a five-dollar rebate for every non-renewed member from membership years 2014, 2015, and 2016 that you renew in your post for 2019. Department Commander Carder wants to take this promotion one step further and offer a five-dollar rebate from the Department level. So instead of sending in Thirty-One Dollars (\$31) in per capita you only send in Twenty-One Dollars (\$21) for every 2014, 2015, 2016 you renew for the 2019 membership. This offer is only good for those three years. Within the next couple of weeks (following the letter from National) Department will send a letter along with a list of non-renewed members of your post and the headquarters post near your area for these years. By going through this list, it will serve two purposes; you will be reaching out to expired members, reconnect with them and get them excited about rejoining your post. Additionally, this will allow us to remove prior members that have moved on to post everlasting.

When you renew a prior member don't forget to use their eight digit ID number currently assigned to them. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call Department

Headquarters and talk to Department Membership Director Chad Woodburn or Department Adjutant Marty Conatser.

Full details are in the Department Newsletter.

https://www.illegion.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/DECEMBER-NEWS_2018.pdf

Get your posts out to the caravan. So much can be learned during this event and are a key to success. (That's way they do it! Information is very powerful.) Have your membership committee, along with you, make phone calls. Start simply by asking about the member's welfare. (Begin the call as a wellness check and move on from there.) The effort of one can make a difference however, the collected efforts of a hand full can be monumental. Let's finish this year strong by being connected starting at the post level. One can use the resources at the District, Division and Department to connect with those programs or projects that make a difference.

Secondly, people want to belong which commonly occurs because they have a common bond.

For those posts that are already at 100 percent, congratulations on building a legacy. If you need my assistance contact me. (It's best to email or text.)

Looking forward to seeing you at the Caravan on January 20, 2019.

Warm regards, *Gigi Callaway*

"When you reach the end of your rope, tie a knot and hang on."

— Abraham Lincoln

"Things may come to those who wait, but only the things left by those who hustle."

— Abraham Lincoln

First Division Jr. Vice Commander Al Pizarro

Hello Members of the Fightin' First Division,

I hope everyone enjoyed their holiday season. It is now time to get back to Legion business. I am pleased to inform all of you that the Armed Forces Day Dinner will be held on Saturday May 18, 2019 at the Des Plaines Elks Lodge located at 495 Lee St., Des Plaines, IL. 60016. Elks phone number is 847-824-1526. Price per ticket will be \$30.00. Reservation forms for this event will be available very soon.

The Past Commanders Luncheon is still a work in progress but I am hopeful to have a venue for this event very very soon as well.

I look forward to seeing you during the Membership Caravan stops scheduled within the 1st Division for 2019.

Respectfully, *Al Pizarro*

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

It's been two months now since our Dept. Service Officer, Wayne Macejak, retired. His replacement, Carolina Contreras is doing a smash up job and our new Service Officer, Jason Girard is going through training as we speak. The transition has been very smooth and we look forward to a great 2019!

One of the Posts in the 9th District passed along an idea which I'd like to share with you. Members are asked to keep their eyes open for torn or worn out American flags in their neighborhood. These could be on individual homes, businesses, churches or schools. When one is noticed their Post sends out the following letter on their Post stationary.

Owners, property at
6240 W. Addison
Chicago, IL. 60634

Dear Owners,

Our American Legion Post is located on the Northwest side of Chicago and is comprised of 182 members. They represent veterans from World War II, the Korean and Vietnam conflicts as well as the two Gulf Wars. All have served their country honorably and are proud to have worn the uniform of the United States of America.

We take pride in our country and also its symbol, the American Flag. All over the Northwest side homes and businesses like yours display our flag for all to see. It represents not only our country with all its freedoms but also all those who have proudly served or who are still serving today.

The weather in Chicago for the last few years has been bad, lots of heavy winds and many thunderstorms. This weather has really done a number on your flag flying on your pole. It is in need of replacement.

We would ask that you look into getting it replaced as soon as is feasible and thank you in advance for doing this small act. Over our history many brave men and women have given their lives for our country. Our flag represents that commitment.

On behalf of our post we just want to thank you in advance for this small act. It means a lot to our veterans who live in the area and drive/walk past your home each day.

GOD Bless America and keep her free!

Sincerely,
Commander -----

They have had a 95% success rate in getting these flags replaced. Try it.

Finally, to help with renewals here is a tip. Go to MyLegion for your Post and you can get most of your members e-mail address. Then send them a reminder that their membership has expired and they can renew online, etc. Once you have the initial e-mail done you can copy and paste it to the next one. I did that in December and got 9 members to pay. Try it.

Let our New Year's resolution be this: we will be there for one another as fellow members of The American Legion, in the finest sense of the word Comradeship.

Ray Joczek

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Feb. 6th Morton Grove Post #134
6140 Dempster St. Morton Grove, IL 60053

Apr. 3rd Harold Washington 1987
4500 S Michigan Ave, Chicago, IL 60653

Jun. 1st Robert E. Coulter 1941 Mini Convention
900 La Grange Rd, La Grange, IL 60525

All Division meetings: DEC @ 7:00, meeting @ 7:30



*** 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

OFFICER CONTACT INFORMATION

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January Events from LEGION.org

Jan 1, 2019	American Legion Baseball registration opens www.legion.org/baseball
Jan 11, 2019	Membership & Post Activities planning session
Jan 14, 2019	Deadline for 2018 VE&E award nominations Employer of Veterans Award Employ the Older Worker Award Employment Service Award National Organization on Disability Award www.legion.org/publications/160948/economic-award-programs-brochure
Jan 14, 2019	Deadline for Homeless Veteran Task Force reports www.legion.org/careers/homelesstaskforce
Jan 17, 2019	Mid-Winter Membership Target Date (80%) For more information, contact Matt Herndon, Deputy Director, Membership. mherndon@legion.org (317) 630-1406 www.legion.org/membership/standings

Jan 21, 2019	Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Jan 27, 2019	Vietnam Cease-Fire (1973)
Feb 1, 2019	AMERICANISM MONTH
Feb 1, 2019	Department submissions due for National Law Enforcement Officer and National Firefighter of the Year awards www.legion.org/security/officeraward www.legion.org/security/firefighter
Feb 3, 2019	Four Chaplains Sunday

If you have an event that you would like us to help you promote, please send the information along to

Shepherd Kendal Bishop at
div1newsletter@yandex.com

And we will try to fit your information into the newsletter.

The Four Chaplains Memorial program

has long been one that not only tells the tale of comfort, support, and kindness unique to the Military Chaplains Corp, but tells the true life story of self sacrifice, Unity, and courage of these four Military officers and Chaplains selfless acts of true heroism.

Taking place in the Winter months of 1943 we board the SS Dorchester on its fifth transatlantic voyage filled with some 902 passengers and crew on board. The small ship has been stripped of all its past glory and is crammed with as many people as possible.

Most of its passengers are New and raw recruits, as they are sent into battle for the first time. Their focus is on the war in Europe. Personal fears and anxieties are running high, and they must still make it past the enemy sub laden "torpedo Alley" prior to joining their comrades as part of the War effort.

The memorial explains the circumstances of the sinking of the ship, the loss of life, and the emotions of survivors. Private William B. Bednar, found himself floating in oil-smearred water surrounded by the dead. Bednar recalls. "I could also hear the chaplains preaching courage. Their voices were the only thing that kept me going."

Carl Sandburg once said “Valor is a gift, Those having it never know for sure whether they have it until the test comes.” These four Chaplains passed the test that day and set forth an example of unity that spans time and history.

The 9th District American Legions, Cook County 1st Division, Department of Illinois, presents a Four Chaplains Memorial that uniquely bring to life the actions and stories of those involved in the sinking of the Dorchester. It is an action packed, multifaceted, stage and multimedia performance for people of all ages and beliefs. It is sure to capture your heart and drive home a better understanding of the self sacrifice, heroism, Unity, and faith that is unique to this country and shared by those who serve as members of its Military.

The presentation of this memorial is offered free of charge to the public.

February 3rd 2019, Performance will be held at
1:30 PM Franklin Park American Legion Post 974
9757 Pacific Ave, Franklin Park IL 60131

Bring your entire Church congregation, organization, friends and family and enjoy this memorable program of Unity that is truly motivational.

Parking at is readily available and free of charge.

Unlock the Mysteries of Veterans Services & Benefits at a special presentation by the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs

1 p.m. • Saturday, February 9
Italian American Veterans Museum
3800 Division St. • Stone Park

Every veteran knows that a range of services and benefits is available to them, but are you aware of the full scope of those resources?

If not, the person to ask is Cynthia McKee. A retired Army veteran, she is a Veterans' Service Officer for the State of Illinois with a satellite office at Leyden Township Office on Mannheim Road in Franklin Park. Intimately familiar

with what's out there on the county, state and national levels, she will share that vast knowledge on Feb. 9 at the Italian American Veterans Museum.

Here's a sample of what you might be entitled to:

Housing Benefits • Compensation and Pension • Education and Training • Scholarships • Employment Benefits • VA Health Care & Pharmacy Programs • Women's Resources • Burial Benefits • Nursing Homes • Military Records • Transportation • Military License Plates

The Italian American Veterans Museum is located on the third floor of the Office Center at Casa Italia in Stone Park. Parking is available at the corner of 37th and Division and behind the Italian Cultural Center on 39th between Division and Soffel.

The museum will be open after the presentation.

Admission is free but seating is limited and reservations are an absolute must!

Call 708-338-0690 and leave your name, phone number and how many people will be attending.

First Division Bowling Tournament

The First Division bowling tournament will be held on Saturday March 30, 2019 at Stardust Bowl located at 37 E Lorraine Ave, Addison IL, Phone 630-833-1040. Check in time will be 11:00 AM, practice time at 11:30 AM and roll off time at Noon.

The entry fee will be \$85 per team or \$17 per person. Checks should be made out to "ALA Cook County Treasurer" and earmarked "Bowling". Send the check and the entry form to Sue Cunniff Coughlin, 812 Elm Street, Park Ridge IL, 60068. If you have any questions, please give me a call at 773-852-5560. **The deadline for entries will be March 15, 2019. I need to give the bowling alley a count on that date.**

Anyone can bowl. The tournament is open to anyone that is not a professional bowler. If you don't have a full team or you are the only bowler and you want to bowl, send in a form! We can put people together to make teams. I will do my best to accommodate any request. Let's get a good turn out again this year. Even if you don't bowl, you can come out and cheer on the teams. An entry form is attached.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
FIRST DIVISION
ANNUAL BOWLING TOURNAMENT

Stardust Bowl, 37 E Lorraine Ave, Addison IL
Phone 630-833-1040 : SATURDAY, MARCH 30, 2019

ENTRY FORM

Check In Time 11:00 AM

Practice Time 11:30 AM

Roll Off Time 12:00 PM

There will be five (5) bowlers per team @ \$17.00 per bowler, \$85.00 per team. Please provide the following information to register your bowlers.

TEAM NAME: _____

This team is Post / Unit / District/ Division or Other team. (Please circle one)

**** IMPORTANT**** Please fill in names in desired bowling lineup.

NAME OF BOWLER

ADDRESS

PHONE

<u>NAME OF BOWLER</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>PHONE</u>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Please make checks payable to **COOK COUNTY TREASURER** and earmark "**BOWLING**".

Send completed form and check (s) to Chairman:

Sue Cunniff Coughlin
812 Elm Street

For further information, call me at 773-852-5560

Park Ridge, IL 60068-3312

REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS FRIDAY MARCH 15TH, 2019. WE NEED TO LET THE BOWLING ALLEY KNOW A COUNT! Fees and forms must be submitted to me by that date! We need to let the bowling alley know how many lanes we are going to use. Thank you.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Post / Unit # _____

District # _____

"We certify that no bowler listed is a professional bowler. We agree to conform to and abide by the Tournament Rules and Regulations."



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

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Editor

Joe Lampert, Commander