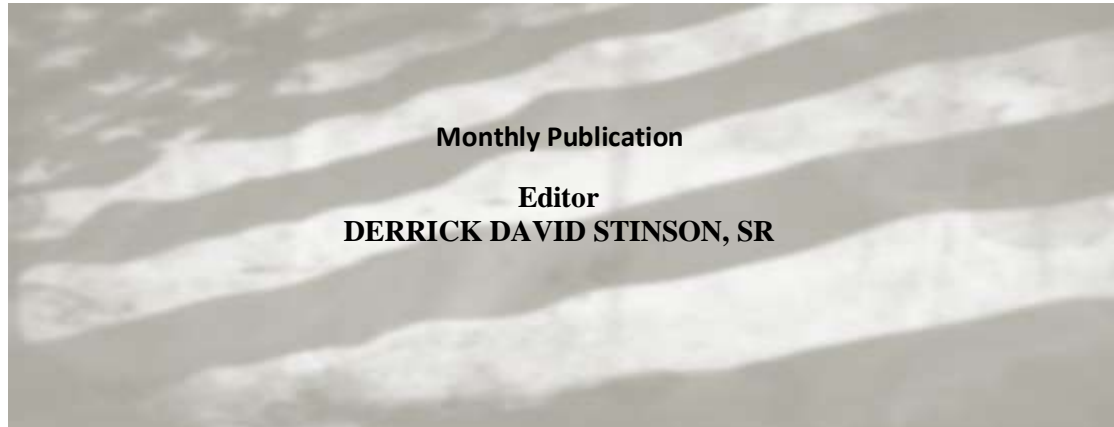




American Legion – Department of Illinois  
 First Division Council, Cook County  
 3728 S Indiana Ave  
 Chicago, IL 60653



If you would like to be added to the division newsletter or for any issues, concerns, or changes, please feel free to contact:  
 TaShyna Willis  
 E-mail: [tashyna1stdiv@yahoo.com](mailto:tashyna1stdiv@yahoo.com)  
 Phone: 773.708.9887



DERRICK DAVID STINSON, SR, Commander

[www.ilfirstdivision.org](http://www.ilfirstdivision.org)

August 2011 Publication

Derrick David Stinson, Sr  
 Commander  
 773.330.5219  
 E-mail: [commander@ilfirstdivision.org](mailto:commander@ilfirstdivision.org)



Greetings and God blessings to our Legion Family.

On July 6<sup>th</sup> the new elected Commanders met and fellowshiped. We watched some training DVDs and shared intuitive conversations about our responsibility as Command Leadership for our Division and Districts. I believe a comradeship of mutual understanding develop that underscores the fact that it is up to us to provide the training, initiate and complete programs throughout the Division to enhance our standing within the Department and our public image. As Commanders, that is part of our sworn duty and charge along with supervising the duties of all other officers of the Division and Districts. To that end you will see some changes in how we administrate Legion Affairs in our area, including a new Administrative Assistant Mrs. TaShyna Willis. We will strive to approve a fair and reasonable budget, which reflects the needs of running our programs and initiatives for this year.

One such program which should not be a surprise to anyone is Heroes to Hometowns. As Commander, I appointed a regional coordinator for each District, these men and women will work directly with me the Gary Jenson our Asst-Department Adjutant to build a foundation for servicing the special needs of these men and women as they return home from war and watch over their families while they are away serving our great nation. The H2H Program is the most vital Legion and V. A. & R. program that directly provide aid to soldiers and their families. We had a couple of fundraisers for this program that did not fair very well and I'm not sure if it's a lack of interest or a lack of communication, maybe both. However, by establishing regional coordinators this should change in favor of the program. Please help these comrades by appointing a coordinator from your local posts to work along with us. There are a lot of success stories from around the nation, let's make some successes here in our own communities. In case you have not got it, Heroes to Hometowns is my Official Charity and one of my initiatives.

Another program and initiative I've been presenting is **Tying Public Relations to Membership**. Our goal here is to return the name of the American Legion back to the households through our Division and improve our image and educate the community and media at large about the value of our Legion Programs. We got a late start on this awaiting funding from our sweepstakes which has been our only means of fundraising. I happy to report we are now producing and broadcasting a live interactive program on Channel 21 with the WOW, RCN and Comcast cable stations in the Chicago viewing area. We air every Monday evening at 6:30PM, please call in at (312) 738-1060 during our broadcast with good questions and positive comments. You all can help us enlighten the public through your participation by calling into the Show. Our current schedule began July 11<sup>th</sup> and runs every Monday through September 26, 2011. Our partnership allows us to produce this type of broadcast every other quarter. Now here is some more good news, the other quarters when we are not doing live cablecasts we will be in the studio taping broadcasts that will air during that perspective quarter.

Derrick David Stinson, Sr. – Commander (Cont.)

Our goal is to air one program every week of the year that we possibly can. I met with our National PR staff during our National Membership training sessions in Indianapolis and we have their full support to help us tell the story right, after National Convention is over. We are presenting the Four Pillars of the American Legion. I've discussed administering differently this year and one of those things we need to change is fundraising.

Currently, we hold our sweepstakes at the end of the year during our mini-convention. And this would be fine if we were not raising funds to pay off that year's debt instead of raising funds to operate in the ensuing year. I propose that we hold our Sweepstakes in December of this year before Christmas. I brought this initiative to 2<sup>nd</sup> Division Commander Bob Howe and Department Commander Dave Hicks and both agreed it was a great idea and now we need to work out the fine strokes and get it approved by Department. What this means is you all get another chance at winning the sweepstakes this year and providing much needed funding to help carry out our programs. Another advantage of operating like this, we will now know earlier if the sweepstakes revenue covers all our needs and allows time for the Ways and Means committee to formulate plans to raise additional funds if needed. Yes we will have a Ways and Means Committee this year.

Remember if you invite me to your Post, I'm coming if humanly possible, until then or next month peace, power and God Blessings!

Derrick David Stinson, Commander

Larry Nohr  
Sr. Vice Commander  
773.693.0662  
E-mail: [doriek60@yahoo.com](mailto:doriek60@yahoo.com)



First of all I would like to thank all of you, who represented your Districts at the Mini-Convention in Calumet City, and voted your trust in me as your Sr. Vice-Commander. It is a privilege and an honor to be entrusted with your vote of confidence. What we need to do right away is begin by putting our strength together and overcome this adversity that has hung over us, way too long. I will begin the year, one step at a time. So, I will begin by starting with our membership slogan for the year **'FIGHTING FIRST' FOR MEMBERSHIP.**

District Commanders, I will need for you to get your Posts and your respective Districts certified, by sending in their Post Officers certification to the Department. The Adjutant of the District will send in their District Officers certification. These forms are self-explanatory and your deadline date is on these forms.

Membership is the key to all organizations. This will be our **NUMBER 1 PRIORITY.** Not only to recruit but to retain and reinstate (known as the 3'R's) as we have all done in the past. My job isn't as much in preaching, but to bring to you the fundamentals that have worked in the past and the new techniques which have worked for other organizations. I will bring forth incentive programs which some of us will enjoy monetary awards, as well as having fun, with other incentives.

I will be attending the National Membership Workshop in Indianapolis on July 27-29, 2011. I will listen diligently to bring back to you the tools for us to use, and initiate our program throughout the year. We can start out by using the telephone to renew. I have much more to say and do hope I haven't been preaching too much, but a head start for the coming year. I will be in contact with you throughout the year, so I'll leave you with the **3R's, RECRUIT, RETAIN, REINSTATE.** Again, I thank all of you for your confidence in me and let's get started.

David B. Montee  
First Division - American Legion Rider  
708.349.4965/708.243.8484  
E-mail: [davebmontee@hotmail.com](mailto:davebmontee@hotmail.com)

The convention is over and a brand new Legion Year is upon us. I am very excited; things have really ramped up for the ALR. First of all, as you have seen in the last Division Newsletter and now in this one, the Division has graciously allowed the ALR space in the newsletter. In each edition I will try to give insight into what the ALR is all about along with information on what it takes to start a Rider group at a Post. I will also enjoy a seat on the Division Executive board. My hope is to enlighten and expand. I know with the help of all of you we can make this program work to the benefit of all. Till next time, David B. Montee, 14018 William Drive, Orland Park, Illinois 60462-2017.



Jack Thompson  
Service Officer  
E-mail: [JackTom@earthlink.net](mailto:JackTom@earthlink.net)

Condolences to the family of Bill McNamara--who passed away recently at Hines. Bill was a Past 4th Division Commander and active also in the 40 and 8. There was a large turn-out for both his wake and funeral, both of which I attended...Rest Well, Mac--

Dan Dusik, our American Legion liaison at Jesse Brown is retiring at the end of this month. We wish Dan and his wife Jan well for an outstanding job in the short time he was there.

Sorry I wasn't able to attend the state convention but needed to stay close to home with my wife on hospice. I want to thank those that sent cards and phone calls.

Congratulations to Bob Przybylinski, from my post, being elected the new 4th District Commander.

#### SUGGESTED STUFFERS:

#### SOME COMRADES ARE HURTING!

Due to the economy some of our comrades are having trouble paying their dues. Our Post doesn't want to lose them as members so we are currently taking donations to help these veterans out. If you have been blessed and can spare a small donation please send us a check (even \$10 will help). Make it out to AMERICAN LEGION POST (insert your post # here) and mail it to us. And again thanks for being a member of the Legion for so many years.

#### SPONSOR A VET?

We are always looking for new members of our Post and have contacted several veterans who would like to be members-at-large but can't afford the annual dues. Some of these veterans are recently returned from Iraq and Afghanistan and are going to school or looking for employment. If you are interested in helping us to sign up these new vets and can spare a small donation please send us a check (even \$10 will help). Make it out to AMERICAN LEGION POST (insert your post # here) and mail it to us. Monies collected will be used to give them a one year free membership. And again thanks for being a member of the Legion for so many years.

#### DO YOU HAVE A VA BENEFITS QUESTION?

The VA has over 40 different benefits and they range from home loans to headstones and pensions to prosthetic devices. Your American Legion has a fully staffed office located at the VA Regional Office on Taylor St. in Chicago. Want to find out if you're eligible? Want to check out that rumor on Agent Orange? Need to get a replacement DD 214? Just contact them at 312-980-4266 or e-mail at [Raymond.Toczek@va.gov](mailto:Raymond.Toczek@va.gov) and you will be assisted with your question. No query is too small or silly. Their office has four full-time service officers with over 70 years of experience. Contact them now.

## First Division Official Calendar



**August 6 month Audit Meeting August 23, 2011, 6:30PM.**

**Elvin J Carey Post #236  
3722 South Indiana Ave., Chicago, IL 60653**

**September 7, 2011**

**Geo. L. Giles Post #87  
5745 South State Street, Chicago, IL 60620  
6:30PM Finance Meeting  
Executive Council Meeting  
Division Meeting**

**October 5, 2011**

**Commander's Open Forum Meeting 7:00PM  
These meetings will be held every 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday between Division Meetings,  
locations to be determined.**

**November 2, 2011**

**Division Meeting 6:30PM  
Robert E Coulter, Jr Post 1941  
900 S. Lagrange Road, Lagrange, IL 60525**

**December 2011**

**Membership meeting / Christmas Party/ Sweepstakes  
Date and Location TBD**

**February 1, 2012**

**Division Meeting 6:30PM  
Morton Grove Post #134  
6144 Dempster Street, Morton Grove, IL 60053**

**February**

**February 23<sup>rd</sup> 6 months Audit Meeting Location TBD  
Four Chaplains Service, Date and Location TBD**

**April 4, 2012**

**Division Meeting 6:30PM  
Argo-Summit Post #735  
6050 S Harlem Avenue, Summit, IL 60501**

**June 2, 2012**

**Mini-Convention  
TBD**

**First Division Live cablecast on Channel 21 6:30PM on Comcast, RCN and WOW, every Monday through September 26, 2011 in the Chicago viewing area, call (312) 738-1060 to ask questions or make positive comments during each broadcast. We are presenting the Four Pillars of the American Legion**

Barry C. Cicero  
Jr. Vice Commander  
708.908.0179

E-mail: [whatthefish@sbcglobal.net](mailto:whatthefish@sbcglobal.net)

THANK YOU again for electing me as your Jr. Vice Commander in a very close election. I will work hard for you, The First Division. I will be visiting all of the Districts and as many Posts as I possibly can to get to know all of you, and in the process become much better familiar with the First Division.

We are going to have a great year!! I believe it. I'm excited about being your Jr. Vice Commander and I look forward to working with Commander Derrick Stinson, Sr. Vice Commander Larry Nohr, and all of the District Officers to accomplish the goals being set for us by Commander Stinson. I will be helping our Sr. Vice Commander

Larry Nohr with his membership responsibilities. I have started to help by attending the 48<sup>th</sup> Annual National Membership Workshop that was held in Indianapolis, Indiana on July 28 - 29, 2011. I brought back membership materials and a lot of notes. It was an outstanding membership workshop that will greatly benefit the First Division.



We have some challenges ahead of us, but as a TEAM we can meet these challenges. We should keep in mind Commander Stinson's membership slogan for last year, which was "TEAM FIRST". Team First is only two (2) words, but with much meaning. You need a Team First to accomplish Sr. Vice Commander Larry Nohr's membership slogan for this new

year of "Fighting First" For Membership. Both are excellent slogans. Membership will be a top priority on everyone's list this year throughout the Department of Illinois.

In closing, I'm sure you have heard it said before that membership is everyone's responsibility. We can get the First Division back on top in membership with everyone's help. It is time for us to go to work! If I can be of any help, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Karen Rosenquist  
First Division ALA President  
E-mail: [karen832up@yahoo.com](mailto:karen832up@yahoo.com)



Legion Members,

I look forward to working this year with each and every legion member within the First Division. I am excited that the programs that the Legion and Auxiliary promote will flourish this year under the direction of your Commander Derrick. Just a little information about your First Division Cook County Council American Legion Auxiliary, I'm a mother of two wonderful children, avid Chicago Cubs fan, and a member of the American Legion Auxiliary for over 25 years. My eligible comes from my later father Richard Rosenquist who served during the Korean Conflict, and he taught me to praise and thank each member of the military, from the bottom of my heart thank you for serving our Country. Membership helps the Legion family promote their programs so I'm asking each Legion member to ask any women family members to join, because for each Legion member statics show there are at least two Auxiliary members. I look forward to meeting each and every Legion member during my travels this year, and I wish the First Division Legion success this year.



Jim Borgman  
SAL Detachment Commander  
708.448.6565  
Email:  
[sal1stdiv.commander@gmail.com](mailto:sal1stdiv.commander@gmail.com)



Greetings from the Sons,

On behalf of the Sons of the American Legion, First Division, I would like to introduce myself as the newly elected SAL Detachment Commander of the First Division, Jim Borgman. I am a member of Tinley Park Squadron 615, and I can't tell you how much I look forward to serving with all factions of the Legion Family within the mighty First Division in this upcoming year. Hello to all Legionier, hello all Auxiliary, hello to all Sons, hello to all Riders reading this, I look forward to working with all to get some great things done this year for our veterans, for our children, and for our community primarily here in the First Division.

I believe this newsletter is a wonderful communication tool to keep you informed and I am happy to be a part of it.

Not having the privilege of serving our great nation, my membership in the Sons comes through my father's service in WW II who was wounded in The Battle of The Bulge; my membership honors his service and his memory. I currently serve my Squadron as its Historian and since joining the Sons as a charter member of Squadron 615 in 2002, I have also served three terms as the Squadron Commander; and in the Great 8<sup>th</sup> District, I have served as the Junior Vice-Commander. In the First Division, I have had the privilege of serving two terms as the Sergeant At Arms and two terms as the Senior Vice-Commander. I also attend the Detachment Executive Committee meetings where I have chaired the Americanism Commission for the past two years.

I am proud to say that I have also received a nomination to serve as a member on the Sons National Americanism Committee as a representative of the Detachment of Illinois and have recently completed the first phase of the Sons National Management Institute, but enough about me.

From here on, I will say it's all about you and how we, the Sons, may assist you in our common goals. I look forward to meeting and working in concert with all of our Division leadership and I promise to avail myself to you whenever possible. If you have any concern that the Sons may address, please do not hesitate to reach out to me and in my absence, you may also contact the First Division Adjutant, Matt Christie at [sal1stdiv.ajutant@gamil.com](mailto:sal1stdiv.ajutant@gamil.com).



Raymond P. Toczek  
VA&R Chairman and Service Officer  
312.980.4264  
E-mail: [Raymond.Toczek@va.gov](mailto:Raymond.Toczek@va.gov)

For our new service officers in all the Posts and Districts of the First Division: The Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation office is located at 2122 W. Taylor St. in Chicago. We are in the VA Regional Office building and occupy room 106. Our walk-in hours are Monday through Thursday 9:00 to 12:00 and then 1:00 to 3:00. Arrangements can be made for one-on-one appointments outside these hours. We can be reached by telephone at 312-980-4266 and the lines are open Monday through Friday from 8:00 to 4:00. We have 24/7 voicemail when we are closed. We can also be reached at the e-mail address listed above. Our office has four accredited Service Officers with over 70 years of experience in the VA claims process. We can assist our comrades with claims for compensation, pension, burial, hospital care, etc. For other benefits, where needed, we can refer you to the correct points of contact. Our office looks forward to working with all our new service officers in the upcoming Legion year. Remember no question is unimportant and all rumors should be checked out.

It's that time of year again. Dues for 2012 are coming in and your Post adjutant will be mailing out membership cards. Here are some suggested "stuffers" you can insert into the envelope with their new cards. Several Posts in my District have done this for several years and have had a good response. Try it and if you receive donations but need new veterans to sign up contact me. I have monthly BINGO games at VA Jesse Brown, I give classes to patients there and we have lots walk-ins to our VA&R office. Many of these vets are down and out and would love to be members but can't currently afford the dues. I will be happy to furnish you with their complete membership information, just ask me.

### First Division Installation July 31, 2011

