



The American Legion - Department of Illinois

Kenneth Penn, Commander

First Division Cook County Council

FIRST DIVISION WEBSITE: www.ilfirstdivision.org

February, 2010

Kenneth Penn, Commander,
(847) 826-8762



Hope everybody has a great holiday season. Now we can get back to legion business. Apparently First Division phones were not very busy over the holidays. Only 233 cards were sent in. That is less than 2 cards per post. This must improve. Our 3 largest posts loaded the post office with 6 cards.

We can do much better than this. **BUT IT TAKES WORK AND COOPERATION.** Each unpaid member **MUST BE CALLED.** First let's make sure he is alive and is still at that phone number. If he has health or financial problems, let's see if the VA or the legion can help. We are here to serve veterans. If he just hasn't mailed in his renewal, let's urge him to do so. **GET A COMMITMENT FROM HIM TO MAIL HIS DUES IN.** This will take work and coordination in each post but it can be done.

The caravan will be in the First Division on Saturday, January 23, 2010:

Evanston Post	11:00 am
Elvin J. Cary Post	2:00 pm
Calument City Post	7:00 pm

Pick two nights to go to your posts and call, call, call. We can do it with hard work.

Our next meeting is February 3, 2010, American Legion, Rhode Post 888, 55 East North Avenue, Northlake, IL.

Hope to see many of you at the Lincoln Pilgrimage.



Ronald Daum, Sr. Vice Commander
(773) 625-2878
email: rondau773@att.net

The membership caravan will be going through Illinois from January 20 through 26, 2010 and it will come through the First Division on January 23. They will be at the Evanston Post 42 at 11:00 am on the 23rd of January and at 2:00 pm they will be at the Elvin J. Carey Post 236, and finally they will stop at the Calumet Post 330 at 7:00 pm. Please try to make one or more of these visits to meet the National Sr. Vice Commander, James C. Morris, from Ohio. Please give all of your posts a call and see if they have any cards that you can bring along to give to the Caravan. We need to make a good showing and we need to give our membership year a boost. If any Post or District in the First Division needs any help with their membership please give me a call at 773 610 5209 and I will be glad to give you a hand. Let's all get to work and get 100% in membership for 2010.

Derrick David Stinson
Jr. Vice Commander
(773) 330-5219
fax: (773) 536-3907
email: pnfwgm@ameritech.net

Our last messages emphasized one of the Four Pillars of our foundation, specifically support of Veterans with special needs and a challenge to the 1st Division to be number 1 in the Department and Nation for our organized participation in the Heroes to Hometowns Program. As of today I have not received any information from our posts indicating who their Heroes to Hometown Representatives are. So enclosed in this newsletter is a registration form that all posts should complete and return the completed form to me. I had hoped to present the HTH registration to our National Vice Commander James Morris during his visit on the Membership Caravan but we've not stepped up to answer the Call to Duty. Comrades this item is not going away, not as long as we have men and women in harm's way fighting a war. We need to step up.

We also talked of supporting veterans with special needs and that of their families. The Fisher House Foundation is in the final construction stages to

Derrick David Stinson
(Con't.)

open a brand new facility at Hines VA Hospital that houses twenty families. Cindy Campbell, Community Liaison for the Fisher F House Foundation attended our November Council meeting and explained that 97 cents out of every dollar donated goes to direct support of the mission. The members of the Council voted to support the Hines Fisher House and immediately gave her a \$100.00 donation and agreed that all Posts in the 1st Division are contacted to enlist their support as well. Within the next couple of weeks every Post Commander will receive a postage paid envelope providing each post the availability to give your direct support to Hines Fisher House Facility. Please call me after you receive your envelope @ 1-773-330-5219. Please make sure to mark American Legion First Division, Cook County in the bottom left-hand corner of the return envelope.

In closing this message please join us in contacting the members of the Illinois General Assembly to sign on as Co-Sponsors to pass HB4667 authorizing an Illinois Women Veterans License Plate. Let's call, write and email our respective members and convince them to sign on and pass this important bill for veterans.

Until next time God bless your households!

Lenny Jakubiak, Adjutant
(773) 763-7308
email: LJUSMC22@yahoo.com

Hope everyone had a great holiday. The Legion year is half way thru and there's still a lot of work to be done. After, all the reminders about delegate dues I received only a handful from the Posts. Delegate lists and dues were due on Dec. 31, 2009 according to the division by-laws all post must respond. Please send in ASAP. The 1ST Division website was updated so you can now get a copy of the delegate forms, committee vouchers and 1st Division By-Laws. Committee reports should be given at least once in the year and a copy given to the adjutant. See you at the next meeting.

Jack Thompson, Service Officer
email: JackTom@earthlink.net

The Swine Flu shots are at Hines but I'm told that if you are over 64 you don't need one. The regular flu shots are still on and you can get one from your primary doctor anytime. I hope to see everybody at the First Division meeting in Northlake on February 3rd. I hope everybody had a happy and healthy holiday season and wish all a happy new year.

Raymond P. Toczek
VA&R Chairman/Service Officer
(312) 980-4264
email: Raymond.Toczek@va.gov

As this New Year begins I just want to say thank you to all those Post Service Officers who have contacted me this last year. As a team we have been able to get dozens of veterans enrolled into the VA hospital system or get their much deserved service-related compensation started. We even had a few widows obtain survivor benefits which they were not aware of. One of the four pillars of the Legion is Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation and our Chicago office is always ready to assist you. And once these veterans get their health care or compensation they give us great PR by word of mouth. I have heard of several Posts picking up new members due to these happy vets. Keep those referrals coming!

Our American Legion hospital liaison at Jesse Brown in Chicago, Dan Dusik, is short on canteen books. These books come in \$5 denominations and we purchase them from the Veterans Canteen Service (VCS). The patients use them to get a snack at the canteen or buy toiletries at the PX. They are also used for BINGO prizes when the Legion sponsors a BINGO event. We will take any donation from \$5 on up. If interested make your check out to V.C.S. #537 and mail it to me at: The American Legion Room 106, 2122 W. Taylor St. Chicago, IL. 60612. If you prefer to make a donation to our Hines hospital liaison you can contact Jack Thompson at JackTom@earthlink.net.

BOWLING – IT'S TIME!!!!

It's almost time for the First Division Cook County Council Bowling Tournament. Please let people know or remind people that it's time to sign up. Remember that this is now a mixed team event so you should be able to find some bowlers.

It has been a fun event for many years. We need your support. If you miss it, you are going to miss a fun time.

The tournament will be held on Sunday March 7, 2010 at Eden Lanes located at 10159 W Cermak, Westchester Illinois, 708-865-0515. Check in time will be 12:45 PM and roll off time will be 1:30 PM.

Entries are due by Friday February 19th, 2010. Please try to get your entries in earlier so your team entry is reserved.

There will be five bowlers on a team. The cost is \$13 per person / \$63 per team. Checks should be made out to "Cook County Treasurer" and earmark them "Bowling". Send the check and the entry form to **Sue Cunniff Coughlin, 812 Elm Street, Park Ridge II, 60068**. If you have any questions, please give me a call at 847-698-5271. If you would like to bowl and need a team, give me a call. Reservation form is also available on the First Division website at:

www.ilfirstdivision.org

The 5th District Auxiliary is having a fundraiser on:

Sunday, Feb. 28, 2010
American Legion, Post 1941
900 S. La Grange Rd., La Grange, IL

12 Noon Cash Bar, Lunch 1-2 pm

They will have raffle baskets, live entertainment and a grand raffle.

Lunch menu will be chicken, stuffing, roast sirloin of beef, polish sausage and sauerkraut, salad, string beans and potatoes.

\$20.00 per person

Make checks payable to – Fifth District Treasurer
Mail to:

Joyce Jankowski, 13438 S. Redberry Circle,
Plainfield, IL 60544 phone: (815) 886-6067

RSVP by February 21, 2010



Become a Heroes to Hometown Team Member

Name:

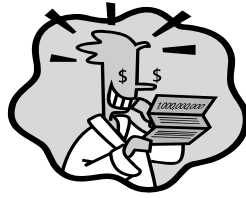
Address:

Home phone #: _____ Cell phone #: _____

Email address:

Post # _____ District #: _____

Please return sign up sheet to:
Derrick David Stinson
Junior Vice-Commander
First Division Council
3654 1/2 South Prairie Avenue
Chicago, Il 60653-1009



Please support the First & Second Division Fundraiser by contributing to the sweepstakes. It is administered by the First Division. You will receive your sweepstakes tickets in February.

All fundraiser money goes to supporting all the First & Second Division programs for the year.

If you have any questions, please contact Ken Trumbull, (847) 663-0539.

The 7th District Past Post Commander's Club
Presents

“The Legionnaire of the Year Dinner”

Honoring

Ken Trumbull

Sunday, February 21, 2010

4:00 pm

Donation is \$20.00 a person

American Legion Civic Center
6140 Dempster St., Morton Grove

Enjoy a delicious Corned Beef and Cabbage dinner.

For reservations contact:
Bill Bickley (847) 803-8299

Please RSVP no later than February 17, 2010
Make checks payable to 7th District PPCC

Mail to: W.R. Bickley, 1756 E. Tano Lane, Mount Prospect, IL 60056-1718

Reservation form is also available on the First Division website
at www.ilfirstdivision.org



American Legion - Department of Illinois
Cook County Council
PO Box 0277
Morton Grove, IL 60053



REMINDER



The next First Division meeting
will be:

Wednesday, Feb. 3, 2010
American Legion,
Rhode Post 888
55 E. North Avenue
Northlake, IL

6:30 Dinner
7:00 Executive Board
7:30 General Meeting



Get all the updated and current First Division
news on the First Division website at:

<http://www.ilfirstdivision.org>

Please notify Cheryl Cubine if you would like to
receive your First Division Newsletter as an
email or for any address changes.

Email: Cheryl1stDiv@aol.com

Phone: (847) 663-0539

Fax: (847) 470-0232

The First Division mailing address is:

American Legion, First Div.
Cook County Council
PO Box 0277
Morton Grove, IL 60053