



FIRST DIVISION Cook County Council

The American Legion
Department of Illinois

RONALD I. DAUM, Commander

www.ilfirstdivision.org

September, 2010

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

A new legion year is started, and the First Division needs to get to work on membership. First, all District Commanders need to see that all their posts are certified. The membership year can not start until your post is certified. This year I would like you to work hard on getting all of your old members resigned. Renewal of your old members has fallen off in the last few years. Let's not lose members that we already have in our Post. Work hard to make all of your members happy. If you see someone who you don't know, find out who he or she is and make them feel welcome.

By the time that you receive this newsletter, the First Division Installation will be over and as of this writing I have 130 guests signed up for the installation dinner. This is a very good turnout, and I thank you for coming.

Derrick Stinson and I went to Indianapolis and learned about the National American Legion plan for membership for the coming year. On the 21st of August we will go to Bloomington and relate this plan to all the District Commanders and Sr. Vice Commanders. Then we come back to Morton Grove for the First Division Installation that night.

The first meeting for the First Division will be on September 15 at the Illianna Post 220 starting at 7:00 PM. After that we will be off to Rock Falls for Department Commander Richard Groharing's Homecoming.

Let's all have a great membership year, work hard and have fun.

Derrick Stinson, Sr. Vice Commander
(773) 330-5219
email: pnfwqm@ameritech.net

As we head into our Department convention, we had tentative arrangements for Division training of the American Legion Institute Course and our Christmas Party / Membership Drive, and I'm happy to announce we've finalized these arrangements. The Division is offering two dates and locations so as to allow the widest opportunity for training possible. The South location/date is still Saturday, October 2, 2010 at Illiana Post 220 located at 10506 South Ewing Avenue, Chicago, IL, and the North location/date is Saturday, October 9, 2010 at Billy Caldwell Post 806 located at 5116 W Irving Park Road, Chicago, IL.

Tinley Park Post 615 confirmed the date for our Christmas Party / Membership Drive for Friday, December 3rd, 2010, 7:00PM, located at 17423 76th Court, Tinley Park, IL. We are hoping for a great turnout and a great number of cards to be turned in.

We also ended last year asking for more people to sign on to the Heroes to Hometown Program. Well, I'm still waiting for all who would help. I'll be sending the list of names to National after the September 15th Division meeting.

Presently, we are forming **Team First** membership squads for the First Division with the objective to move the First Division from **Last place to First place** in the Department. We are asking you to join us in putting teamwork first to achieve this one goal. We are during things a little different this season: each **Team member** will receive their Pins during the beginning of the year, and you will earn it during the course of the year by signing up 3 members (1 expired member and 2 new members). **We have a special challenge for you heavy hitters: you sign up 5 expired members and 2 new members and we give you a Special designed Challenge Coin.** All Commanders and Vice Commanders at the District and Post level are automatically Team Members, but we need additional post members to help us, including the ALA and SAL.

There are more awards and incentives, but I cannot spell them out until after our Department Training session and your approval of my Membership spending projections. **The awards and incentives' are all about you!**

Finally, we need every post and every district to help **tie public relations to membership** by promoting our Legion programs and activities to the media and general public as much as possible this year. We will be speaking more about this as time goes on, but get your post and district PR persons alerted to the task ahead of us.

God bless your households!

Lawrence (Larry) Nohr,
Jr. Vice Commander
(773) 693-0662

Well it's August already, and we're moving out to Milwaukee for the National Convention. It looks like the Leading Candidate is Jimmy Foster of Alaska. I talked with Jimmy at the Department Convention in Springfield, and he was having a wonderful time. I informed him that the First Division would be hosting the Armed Forces Day Dinner, which I would be organizing with the help of our Past First Division Commanders who have given me an outstanding insight on how to go about organizing this special event. So, on that token this is what I have so far.

I have a date of May 21, 2011, and I am still in the process of setting up a tour of the Great Lakes Naval Base during a graduating ceremony on this date. Morton Grove Post 134 has graciously offered to host our Past Commander's Dinner this year. The date and time are still to be determined so as not to conflict with any Patriotic or National Observance. I will keep all Legionnaires informed of any and all updates as they progress.

Let's make these (2) First Division events a memorable and fun time for the First Division, and we can do this by your attendance.

For those Legionnaires who have never been to a National Convention this will be an experience you may never forget. The camaraderie of meeting and talking with Legionnaires from 55 Departments is unforgettable. Have a safe trip and have some fun.

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

Condolences to the family of Bill Morrison who passed away recently. Bill was a Past 5th District Commander and good friend. Rest well, comrade.

I want to thank Commander George Radka and Larry Nohr of the Fireman's Post 667 for their visits and donations to our office at Hines. Larry is also the newly elected Jr Vice of the 1st Division. Both men really take an interest in our vets.

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

I want to thank the First Division for again appointing me your service office as well as VA&R representative. I will continue to try and keep our comrades updated on veteran benefit changes and help with filing of compensation and pension claims. In the June/July Department newsletter I had an article entitled "Did You Know," and it mentioned the Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents 2010 edition. This resource is invaluable and discusses the many and varied benefits and programs offered to our veterans by the VA. I will be bringing a supply of these to the next meeting, be sure to see me to get your copy. I will also be attending the National Convention in Milwaukee and hope to give a brief report on the 16 resolutions from our Division that were passed by our state convention and forwarded on to them. And to our new officers, may you have a very successful legion year.

AMERICAN LEGION EXTENSION INSTITUTE COURSE PROVIDED

The First Division, in conjunction with the Department of Illinois, invites you to attend The American Legion Extension Institute on Saturday, October 2nd at Illiana Post 220 or Saturday, October 9th at Billy Caldwell Post 806 from 9:30 AM to 2:00 PM. All Legion, Sons of the American Legion and Auxiliary Members are eligible to attend. Whether you are a Post Officer, newcomer to the American Legion or a long time member, everyone is encouraged to attend.

The primary purpose of this course is to educate, inform, and gain knowledge regarding The American Legion. Members who are "in the know" have the understanding that keeps our organization strong and growing. An educated

American Legion Extension Institute Course Offered (Con't.)

and informed member spells success. If you are interested in knowing more about The American Legion, we look forward to your presence at one of these seminars. With your attendance, and Department realizing that Education and Knowledge will not only make you a better informed member of your Post, you in addition, will be allowed to wear the "Extension Institute" completion pin on your cap further indicating your desire to learn and discover the rich history, programs, policies, developments, positions and future goals of our organization.

To reserve your seat today, fill out the enclosed reservation form and mail it with a \$5.00 check made payable to The First Division / Cook County Council to Al Coughlin / 812 Elm Street, Park Ridge, IL 60068 no later than September 20th, 2010 (the \$5.00 fee is being asked to help offset coffee, lunch, and course materials).

If you should have any questions or concerns, please contact Al Coughlin at (847) 698 – 5271 or (773) 852 - 5561.

STILL SERVING VETERANS

The US Army 940th Transportation Company returned from Kuwait and Iraq on Saturday, August 14th to O'Hare airport. Ron Daum, Ken Trumbull, Joe Piento and Jan Lepinski from the First Division met them at the airport. From there they had a police escort with the Welcome Warrior Riders to Fort Sheridan.



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



FIRST DIVISION MEETINGS:

Sept. 15, 2010

Post 220, 10506 S. Ewing Ave., Chicago

Nov. 3, 2010

Post 888, 241 E. North Ave., Northlake

Feb. 2, 2011

Post 134, 6144 Dempster, Morton Grove

Apr. 6, 2011

Post 854, 9701 S. Kedzie, Evergreen Pk.

6:00	Dinner
7:15	Executive Board
7:30	General Meeting

The First Division website is being updated all the time so please frequent it. It can be found 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 or newsletter submissions.

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