

Welcome to the American Legion  
**FIRST DIVISION**  
Newsletter



Commander  
Thomas Chambers

First Division is Online  
at

<http://www.ilfirstdivision.org>

**Newsletter for April 2022**

**First Division Commander Thomas Chambers**

April is Children and Youth month. Coordinate children and youth activities and recognition with the posts Auxiliary unit. Obtain children and youth guide from department headquarters. Plan your election of new officers for next fiscal year, along with summer scouting activities and Boys State.

Upcoming events are as follows:

**April 6th** is the next 1st Division meeting at Evergreen Park Post #854

The D.E.C. is **April 9th** at the Holiday Inn in Normal, IL

**April 16th** is the Past Commanders Dinner at the Des Plaines Elks Club. The time is from 6pm to 11pm. The cost is \$35.00.

**Armed Forces week**, The National Commander will be in town and the First Division will have the honor to take him to Fischer House for a visit on the **19th of May**. From there we will go to a local post for Dinner. On Friday a tour of Great Lake Naval Base and seeing a

Graduation Ceremony.

**On the 21st** There will be a Dinner at the Wyndham Garden Schaumburg, 1725 Algonquin Rd. Schaumburg, IL 60173  
~We have reserved a block of rooms at \$72.00 a night for this event.  
Social hour at 5pm and dinner at 6:00pm.  
Hotel phone # is 847-493-3347

This is for the 1st and 2nd Division. Lets all plan a good night out.

Until next month, God Bless and stay safe.

*Thomas Chambers*

**First Division Senior Vice Commander Frank B. Thompson III**

To all those post/districts that came out to our working breakfast at the Italian American Veterans Museum in Stone Park, IL. I want to thank you so very much for coming out and helping with our membership drive.

April 6th is the next 1st Division meeting which will be held at Evergreen Park post #854 9701 S. Kedzie Ave.

June 4th is our Mini- Convention also at Evergreen post #854 at 8:00am, make sure that in order for your post to have a voice in voting, you must pay your delegate dues to the 1st Division Adjutant Harold Dillard or to Bernard (Bernie) Darmetko.

A Great Big CONGRATULATIONS going out to the 2nd District for their strong push in membership, I SALUTE You for a great performance (Tattler Post #973) and all your members.

Last But Not Least, Don't Forget About the Buddy-Check, we need to keep up with our elderly and sick comrades. To make sure that their alright and if they may need our help.

WE (THE 1ST DIVISION) NEED EVERYONE'S HELP WITH THE MEMBERSHIP DRIVE, THAT MEANS EVERYONE THAT TOOK THE OATH AS AN AMERICAN LEGION MEMBER, WE NEED YOUR HELP.

*Frank B. Thompson III*

**First Division Medical Officer Don Horn**

**CATARACTS**

Inside our eyes, we have a natural lens. The lens bends (refracts) light rays that come into the eye to help us see. Our lens should be clear.

A cataract is when your eye's natural lens becomes cloudy. The proteins in your eyes break down and it is like looking through a foggy or dusty car windshield. Things look blurry, hazy or less colorful with a cataract.

**Symptoms:**

1. Having blurry vision
2. Seeing double or a ghosted image out of the eye with cataract
3. Being extra sensitive to light (especially headlights at night)
4. Having trouble seeing well at night, or needing more light to read
5. Seeing bright colors as faded or yellow instead

**Etiology:**

1. Aging, is the most common cause
2. Hereditary with members who have cataracts
3. Diabetes
4. Smoking
5. Having eye injury, eye surgery, radiation treatments or UV light exposure
6. Corticosteroid medications

**Cataract Treatment:**

Cataracts can be removed only with surgery.

If your cataract symptoms are not bothering you very much, you usually don't have to remove a cataract. You might just need a new eyeglass prescription to help you see better. You should consider surgery when cataracts keep you from doing things you want or need to do.

You may be able to slow down your development of cataracts. Protecting your eyes

from sunlight is the best way to do this. Wear sunglasses that screen out UV light and a hat. Quit smoking and take care of any other health problems, especially diabetes.

***We all should make an informed decision on our health and treatments. If you have concerns or questions have a discussion with your ophthalmologist.***

Yours in Service, **DON**

#### OFFICER CONTACT INFORMATION

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<b>JR. VICE COMMANDER</b> <b>JOE HENDRICK</b> Phone: (847) 212 - 5336 Email: Hedrico@juno.com	<b>DIVISION ADJUTANT:</b> <b>HAROLD DILLARD</b> Phone: (773) 450 - 3099 Email: ce1sgtaf@att.net
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<b>MEDICAL OFFICER</b> <b>DR. DON HORN</b>	<b>HISTORIAN</b> <b>HAROLD TONEY</b>

#### Meeting Dates for 2021 – 2022

April 6	Evergreen Park Post #854
April 9	9701 S. Kedzie Ave, Evergreen Park, IL 60805
April 16	The D.E.C. at the Holiday Inn in Normal, IL
May 21	Past Commanders Dinner at the Des Plaines Elks Club.
June 4	The time is from 6pm to 11pm.
	Armed Forces Day Dinner at the Wyndham Garden
	Schaumburg, 1725 Algonquin Rd. Schaumburg, IL 60173
	Mini-Convention at Evergreen Park post #854 at 8:00am

“We hold our heads high, despite the price we have paid, because freedom is priceless.” – Lech Walesa

“This nation will remain the land of the free only so long as it is the home of the brave.” – Elmer Davis

## 100% Membership

Post # 111 101.3%	Post # 130 102.8%	Post # 131 101.1%
Post # 368 100%	Post # 509 11.1%	Post # 555 100%
Post # 699 100%	Post # 758 105%	Post # 769 100%
Post # 829 100%	Post # 856 300%	Post # 939 160%
Post # 959 100%	Post # 1139 100%	Post # 1974 128.6%

## Commander's Working Breakfast



Colonel Larry Kaifesh, USMC (retired) ~ "Hunting for ISIS in Syria."  
March 19, 2022







***SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION***  
***1<sup>st</sup> DIVISION***  
Present



**Hockey Night with the Chicago Wolves**

April 24<sup>th</sup> 3:00 pm



**VS.**



**Proceeds benefit the**



\$50.00 Donation includes game ticket, free hat, one free meal voucher and free parking.  
Tickets are in Section 103 – Two rows from the ice! – It is Papa John's Family Sunday and  
Wolves Trading Cards Giveaway, courtesy of Vienna Beef.

Free prizes raffled off.

**Please RSVP by April 17th**

Cash payment or make checks payable to Sons of the American Legion Squadron # 986  
For more information contact Sergio Senese at  
(773) 909-3072 or [sergiosenese@hotmail.com](mailto:sergiosenese@hotmail.com)



**NATIONAL COMMANDER PAUL E. DILLARD  
2022 MEMBERSHIP INCENTIVE PIN  
CERTIFICATION FORM**



Please make sure that the address, phone number and email address provided is for the recruiter and not the post

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership ID Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address or PO Box: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ MAIL TO RECRUITER ☐ MAIL TO POST

**TO QUALIFY YOU NEED TO RECRUIT (3) NEW MEMBERS INTO THE AMERICAN LEGION.**

(A NEW MEMBER IS DEFINED AS ANY ELIGIBLE VETERAN JOINING FOR THE 2022 MEMBERSHIP YEAR WHO WAS NOT A MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN LEGION DURING THE 2021 MEMBERSHIP YEAR). **TRANSFERS DO NOT COUNT AS NEW MEMBERS.**

PLEASE FORWARD THE NAMES OF NEW SAL MEMBERS OR AUXILIARY MEMBERS TO YOUR SQUADRON OR UNIT FOR USE IN THEIR RESPECTIVE INCENTIVE PROGRAMS. CONTACT YOUR STATE HEADQUARTERS FOR MORE INFORMATION.

**PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT THE MEMBERS HAVE BEEN PROCESSED BEFORE SUBMISSION. PINS WILL NOT BE MAILED UNTIL THEY ARE VERIFIED ON THE NATIONAL DATABASE.**

**THE DEADLINE FOR THIS INCENTIVE IS JUNE 30, 2022.**

**(3) NEW MEMBERS:**

**(Include full name, ID number, department, post)**

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

Return completed forms to:  
The American Legion  
National Internal Affairs & Membership Division  
PO Box 1055  
Indianapolis, IN 46206

Fax: 317-630-1413  
Email: [kadams@legion.org](mailto:kadams@legion.org)

# Operation Comfort Warriors event shatters record

*The American Legion ~ Mar 29, 2022*

American Legion Past National Commander James E. Koutz suspected the crowd would be pretty good March 27 for an Operation Comfort Warriors benefit at Kenny N. Dowden Wayne Post 64 in Indianapolis. The annual event had to be canceled in 2020 and 2021, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, so he thought the American Legion Family would be excited to get together again for ham and beans, music, games and fun – all for a good cause.

“It was half full by 11,” Koutz said of the event, scheduled to start at noon.

The crowd, the camaraderie and the contributions were more than he expected. “It was a really, really great day,” Koutz said after the event raised \$106,025 – nearly \$50,000 more than any previous best year since the benefit began in 2013. More than 350 attended, primarily members of the Post 64 and Beech Grove, Ind., Post 276 American Legion Families. “There wasn’t a chair left. There were people standing, people in the back room, and kids had a designated area. It was really a family event. I was at a loss for words about the turnout.”

He said many of those who attended were new to the Legion and to Operation Comfort Warriors. Brochures and booklets were distributed, and OCW merchandise was also offered in return for donations.

As national commander for the nation’s largest veterans organization, Koutz made Operation Comfort Warriors his marquee fundraising mission in 2012 and 2013. When his term ended, his passion for OCW did not fade. Since his year as national commander, he has helped raise millions of dollars for the program that provides comfort items and recreational opportunities for wounded and sick military personnel and veterans in severe need. OCW grant items have included socks, clothes, video games, arts and crafts, televisions, iPads, sporting equipment, winter kits for homeless veterans, food, rehabilitation equipment such a recumbent bike or elliptical, fishing trips, tickets to baseball games, family passes to theme parks and more.

Koutz has traveled to multiple states promoting OCW, but his home state of Indiana has always come up big for the program. And at the end of the benefit event March 27, “the crowd went crazy when they gave me the check for the \$100,000.” That came from the Post 64 event itself and other fundraising activities leading up to it. Every dime of the \$5 per-plate lunch went right to OCW, and contributions poured in from individuals as well as Sons of The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary and American Legion Riders. “The Auxiliary, the Sons and the Riders all raised money,” Koutz said. “Most of this was all Sunday.”

“OCW has caught on, and it’s staying that way because we work it,” Koutz said in an October 2021 interview. “We keep it going. And the more PR we get out about it, the better we are ... (Donors) know that 100 percent will go to the troops. That’s why they stick with it. Money is going to stay with OCW. And as long as we are serving active-duty soldiers and veterans, we will have OCW. That’s what The American Legion is about.”

As part of the benefit, American Legion Department of Indiana Commander Mark Gullion and Past National Commander Koutz unveiled a 73-year-old, newly restored stained glass window of The American Legion emblem. The illuminated pane, which had been in storage after it was recovered from the original post home, was crafted in 1949 and now has a permanent place inside Post 64.



**PROMOTION OF YOUR POST, UNIT AND SQUADRON CAN BE A HUGE BOOST TO YOUR MEMBERSHIP AND ABILITIES TO HELP OTHERS IN YOUR COMMUNITY, STATE AND NATION.**

I am not sure if many of you really know about this, but [www.Legion.org](http://www.Legion.org) has a special section where you and your Post can submit information on what you have done and what you are doing in the community.

This is located at [www.legiontown.org](http://www.legiontown.org) and if you look around, you could find some great ideas that you can use to make your Post really stand out. When we promote ourselves, we let others know that the American Legion exists

If you have a newsletter for your Post, Unit and Squadron, have copies taken to your local library and placed in the periodical section, as people still use those to find out about the local community. Promote articles with your local, community based news outlets. Writing and submitting articles, along with pictures goes a long way towards people seeing you doing a great job. As a general rule, reporters are unable to come to your events even if they know about them, so find a member or two to take pictures and can write up a small article that the media can use. They are always looking for additional local interest stories. Perhaps even just sending your newsletter to them would be a help.

Even local based web sites are a bonus. Look at [www.nextdoor.com](http://www.nextdoor.com) and find out how easy it is to promote your events and fundraisers. Another site with a local events area is [www.craigslist.com](http://www.craigslist.com), which a larger audience uses on a daily basis. You may have to submit slightly different articles on the same event a few times a week to get people to see it.

The more people see that you exist and are doing things, the easier it is to get people to join and support your great efforts.

You may need to put a team together of a few people since a single person will have a difficult time keeping up with all the outlets. Have fun with it and make it a Legion Family situation where the Post, Unit, Squadron and Riders areas can participate to keep the American Legion strong and viable for many years to come.

Our members do an amazing job, and we need to stop making it a secret about what we do since others want to help out but they just do not know how. Also, don't forget to submit to your District, Division and Department newsletters – Seriously, we appreciate hearing from you, too.

*Shepherd K. S. Bishop*  
Managing Editor

# IDRF

ILLINOIS DISASTER RELIEF FUND



## Contribution Form for Department Commander Fischer's Special Project

NAME OF INDIVIDUAL OR POST: \_\_\_\_\_

POST #: \_\_\_\_\_ DIV #: \_\_\_\_\_ DIST. #: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP CODE: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE NO.: \_\_\_\_\_

AMOUNT \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Payment Type: \_\_\_\_\_ Check -or- \_\_\_\_\_ Credit Card

Please Charge \$ \_\_\_\_\_ on my Credit Card



Card No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

(Required)

## Department Commander Wayne Fischer's 2022 Special Project

### "EMBRACE THE CHALLENGE!"

**Illinois Veterans helping their own!**  
**Department of Illinois Commander**  
**Wayne Fischer is asking for your**  
**donations, *large or small*, to keep**  
**building the Illinois Disaster Relief**  
**Fund. Your contribution will ensure**  
**that funds are available in times of**  
**need. These funds will be dedicated**  
**to Veterans right here in our very**  
**own state. Tornadoes, Hurricanes,**  
**Flooding, and other unforeseen**  
**disasters can strike instantly. And**  
**when they do, The American**  
**Legion's Illinois Disaster Relief**  
**Fund will be there to help.**

- ☆ Please make checks payable to the  
***Department of Illinois*** and earmarked  
***"Commander's Special Project - Illinois***  
***Disaster Relief Fund***

- ☆ Send contributions to:  
***The American Legion—Dept. of Ill.***  
***2720 E. Lincoln St.***

**CONTRIBUTIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE**





**American Legion Department of Illinois  
First & Second Divisions**



Hotel accommodation: Wyndham Garden Schaumburg 1-847-496-3347  
Armed Forces Day Veterans Dinner \$72.00 per night

Please remit the section below with your payment to:  
**American Legion First Division Council, P.O. Box 280 Riverside, Illinois 60546-0280**  
Please R.S.V.P. by April 30, 2022 .

RSVP

M \_\_\_\_\_ Has reserved \_\_\_\_\_ seat(s) for

**Armed Forces Day Dinner 2022**  
**Saturday, May 21, 2022 \* 5:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m.**

**Wyndham Garden**  
**1725 East Algonquin Road in Schaumburg, IL**

Cost of dinner per person (pp) will be \$50.00.

Mark entrée selection (one pp): \_\_\_\_\_ Herb-Roasted Chicken; \_\_\_\_\_ Herb-Crusted Pork Loin;  
\_\_\_\_\_ Black Angus Roasted Sirloin of Beef; or \_\_\_\_\_ Stuffed Shells

Postmarked by April 30, 2022. Indicate on response - Post/Unit/Squadron: \_\_\_\_\_ District: \_\_\_\_\_ Division: \_\_\_\_\_





First Division, Cook County  
Council  
The American Legion,  
Department of Illinois  
828 N. Roy Ave,  
Melrose Park, IL 60164

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PLEASE LET OUR WEBMASTER, JOHN LOS, KNOW IF THERE ARE ANY  
CHANGES IN HALL RENTAL INFORMATION POSTED ON OUR  
WEBSITE

*Chief Editor: Thomas Chambers*

If you would have any issues or concerns about the newsletter, please feel free  
to contact: ***Shepherd K. S. Bishop – Managing Editor***  
For a free copy of the 1<sup>st</sup> Division newsletter sent to you via E-Mail please send a  
request to us at

**[div1newsletter@yandex.com](mailto:div1newsletter@yandex.com)**