

Welcome to the American Legion  
**FIRST DIVISION**



**COMMANDER  
ANTHONY  
SICILIANO**

First Division is Online  
at

<http://www.ilfirstdivision.org>

**Newsletter for July 2018**

## **First Division Commander Anthony J. Siciliano**

My Brothers and Sisters of the Fighting First.

This is my last official article as Commander of The Fighting First. It's a bittersweet moment for me.

I'm not going to tell YOU that it's all been GREAT. That would be foolish and a gross misrepresentation of every individual that ever assumed the mantle of leadership in this Great and Wonderful Organization as we know it to be, The American Legion!!

This past year in spite of the revitalizations for the 3rd., 5th., and 9th. Districts. We are number 5 in the Department of Illinois standings. Number 5, Represents Last Place!!  
**FRUSTRATING !**

1st. District? 2nd. District?? 4th. District?? 8th. District?? We have all The tools! Did We Take advantage of them? Did We Try??

I suggest that we start now. Make the commitment for our 100th. Year. The 100th. Year A 100% What A Great Way for us To Redeem Ourselves!! The 100th. Year A 100% across the board. **START NOW!!**

I know that Commander Elect Joseph P. Lampert , Sr.V.C. Elect GiGi Callaway And Jr. V.C. Elect Alfonso Pizarro Are Committed To The 100th. Year a 100%. Rule!! Am I correct in my assumption Commanders ?

I Congratulate The 7th. District and it's leadership for not settling for less than 100% Commander Shawn Hoffmann, Sr. V.C. John Wowk, Jr. V.C. Christine Hildebrandt. Thank You So Much!!

I Congratulate My District. The Mighty Ninth (9th.) And it's leadership for their tanasity and relentless pursuit in achieving 101.79%  
Commander Jackie Blount, Commander Elect Dr.George (Don) Horn and Sr.Vice Elect Dale Tippett.

Outstanding!!! OUTSTANDING!!!

### **A Post In Trouble**

A special recognition goes out to the 8th. District. Commander William Cooper Jr.V.C. Rickie Mitchell,

1st Division Sr.V.C. Joe, Jr.V.C. GiGi, Judge Advocate Pete Hirt Jr.V.C. Elect Alfonso Pizarro. My Aid 9th.District Commander Elect Dr. George (Don) Horn. The Jr. V.C. of The Hazel Crest Post # 398 Wally Kane for bringing his Posts problem to the 8th District Commander Bill Cooper who in turn contacted me. We immediately formed an advisory committee and worked with Hazel Crest Post # 398. Reviewed and updated their bylaws, witnessed their election of new officers and new board of directors.

In short, Hazel Crest Post #398 Is celebrating The American Legion 100th Year with a New Beginning.

I Congratulate The New Officers and Board of Directors of Post # 398. For having the courage and commitment to pull together to save their Post.

I stand proud to have been a small part of The rebirth of The Hazel Crest Post #398.

GOD BLESS YOU AND GOD BLESS AMERICA.

*Anthony J. Siciliano*

## **First Division Sr. Vice Commander Joseph P. Lampert**

Congratulations to the Membership teams of the 7<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> Districts for attaining 100%! With one week to go, before the close of books, the Division needs 751 cards to reach 100%. We need to hit the ground running to stop the continual slide in membership.

Our next event is the Department Convention in Springfield, July 11-14. This is the start of the 100 year anniversary! Delegates, lest show up and fill the convention hall!

The 1<sup>st</sup> Division Installation will be held on August 12, 2018 at Morton Grove Post #134, 6144 W. Dempster St., Morton Grove, 60053. Cocktails at 4:00 pm, installation at 5:00 pm with dinner to follow. Cost is \$25.00 per person. Make your checks payable to the 1<sup>st</sup> Division. On the memo line indicate INSTALLATION. Mail to the attention of Bernie Darnetko Finance Officer, P.O. Box #280 Riverside, IL, 60546.

Still Serving America

*Joseph P. Lampert*

## **First Division Jr. Vice Commander Gigi Callaway**

Dear Legionnaires,

We still have another month in this Legion year so let's see you and your delegates at the Department Convention.

I would like to thank those Posts and Districts that have sent in your donation for the Division's Hospitality Room, you are true leaders! We still need some items since there was little to nothing in stock from last year. Need your assistance: Volunteers to take a shift at the Hospitality room. (Let me know your availability) Additionally, we are still in need of monetary donation of at least \$100. Per District would be very much appreciated, if you have not yet contributed. Make Your check payable to American Legion 1st. Division Cook County, Council. P.O. Box # 280, Riverside, IL.60546. (On the memo line of your check please indicate Hospitality Room.)

Now let's have some fun because it is a time to celebrate. Let's make this happen! It's your Division's Hospitality Room. This is your room to come, relax, unwind, and enjoy.

I want to thank those of you that attended the mini convention, I am looking forward to the next Legion year! See you in Springfield this July.

Warm regards,

# Gigi Callaway

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

Well the summer hiatus is here and soon we will be heading to Springfield for our state convention. I want to thank those Posts that submitted resolutions to be considered at the convention. We had several good ideas and the VA&R commission will consider them carefully. I'll give a full report in the next newsletter.

As we take a breather from all our post, district and division meetings and activities let's start thinking about the fall and resumption of business. Here are a few ideas to consider when your post and district meetings resume.

1. Stress to your members that a legible copy of their DD 214 or separation papers should be on hand, at home and in a safe place. Be sure your next-of-kin knows where it is located. This important document will be needed to make funeral arrangements when you pass away.
2. If you wish to be interred at Abe Lincoln or any other Veterans Administration National Cemetery apply for a pre-need determination for yourself and your spouse. Use Veterans Administration form 40-100007 which can be obtained by calling the National Call Center (1-800-827-1000) of the Veterans Administration. This will confirm your eligible and you can still choose to be buried somewhere else when the time comes.
3. If any of your members have veteran friends or relatives buried at private cemeteries they can now order a government medallion reflecting their branch of service. This medallion can then be affixed directly to the private stone. That claim form is a 40-1330M and can be obtained at the same number.
4. Ask all your members who served in Vietnam if they are familiar with the medical problems caused by Agent Orange. Some of the more common ones are diabetes, coronary artery disease, certain cancers and Parkinson's disease. If they have any of these have them contact us as soon as possible to file a claim. Even one day of "boots on the ground" could qualify. Our office number is shown above.

Two final quickies; the new shingles shot will be available soon at the VA. Also there are now free license plates for veterans rated 50% or more service-connected disabled. It is called the I SERVED plate and more info can be obtained at your local Secretary of State office.

It has been a pleasure to serve Commander Siciliano as Service Officer for the 1<sup>st</sup> Division this last year and I look forward to serving under the leadership of incoming Commander Lampert if he appoints me. And to those who were appointed by their Post to be a Service Officer this fall - welcome.

**HAPPINESS IS A GLASS OF COLD WATER AFTER A WALK HOME IN  
HOT WEATHER.**

*Ray Toczek*

### **First Division Adjutant Shepherd Kendal S. Bishop**

Please Join Me in Congratulating and Welcoming  
Your 2018 – 2019 Duly Elected and Appointed Officers for the 1<sup>st</sup> Division of the  
Department of Illinois, the American Legion

Commander **Joe Lampert**  
Sr Vice Commander **Gigi Callaway**  
Jr Vice Commander **Al Pizarro**  
Finance Officer **Bernard Darmetko**  
Adjutant **Leonard Jakubiak**  
Service Officer **Ray Toczek**  
Chaplain **Danny Eison**  
Sergeant at Arms **Kenneth J. Trumbull**

I will be continuing on as manager of this newsletter and if you have any events that you would like the 1<sup>st</sup> Division to know about, please send them to me and we will do our best to fit them into the newsletter. We will also be sending out emails concerning any upcoming events we are told about. Please send the information to me at the newsletter email address:

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

Thank you for a great year and please support our new officers, this is going to be another GREAT YEAR!

**Shepherd K.S. Bishop**

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### The 1<sup>st</sup> Division Installation

will be held on August 12, 2018 at Morton Grove Post #134,  
6144 W. Dempster St., Morton Grove, 60053.

Cocktails at 4:00 pm, installation at 5:00 pm with dinner to follow.

Cost is \$25.00 per person.

Make your checks payable to the 1<sup>st</sup> Division. On the memo line indicate  
**INSTALLATION.**

Mail to the attention of Bernie Darmetko Finance Officer,  
P.O. Box #280 Riverside, IL, 60546.



This Newsletter will now have a page or so dedicated to our fallen Legionaries. Title being as you see it below.

### **\* 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**

Franklin Park Post 974  
**Raymond McBride**

## OFFICER CONTACT INFORMATION

<b>COMMANDER:</b> <b>ANTHONY SICILIANO</b> Phone: (312) 623 - 4216 Email: asiciliano974@yahoo.com	<b>SENIOR VICE COMMANDER:</b> <b>JOE LAMPERT</b> Phone: (847) 417 - 8672 Email: the-natureboy1@comcast.net
<b>JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER:</b> <b>GIGI CALLAWAY</b> Phone: (224) 800 - 1177 Email: ILLfirstdivision@gmail.com	<b>DIVISION ADJUTANT:</b> <b>KEN BISHOP</b> Phone: (847) 774 - 8356 Email: div1adj@yandex.com
<b>FINANCE OFFICER:</b> <b>BERNARD DARMETKO</b> Phone: (708) 860 - 1897 Email: bcdarmetko@comcast.net <i>(Please note Bernard's email has changed).</i>	<b>CHAPLAIN:</b> <b>PATRICK J. RAFFERTY</b> Phone: (708) 602-5878 Email: irish1939@comcast.net
<b>SERVICE OFFICER:</b> <b>RAYMOND TOCZEK</b> Phone: (312) 980 - 4264 Email: Raymond.toczek@va.gov	<b>ASSISTANT SERVICE OFFICER:</b> <b>CHARLES BOSKO</b> Phone: (312) 980 - 4512 Email: Charles.bosko@illinois.gov

*Department of Illinois  
American Legion Family Convention*

July 11-15, 2018

**BOS Center, 1 Convention Center Plaza, Springfield, IL 62701**

### Legion Hospitality Rooms

1st Division	Rendezvous Room (Mezzanine level)
2nd Division & 12th District	Plazas 1 & 2 (Mezzanine Level Wyndham)
3rd Division	Vistas 1, 2 & 3 (29th floor Wyndham)
4th Division	Vistas 4 & 5 (29th Floor Wyndham)
5th Division	Embassy Room (Lower Level Wyndham)
11th District	Plaza 3 (Mezzanine Level Wyndham)
19th District	Vista 6 (29th floor Wyndham)

## AMERICAN LEGION AGENDA

<b>Wednesday, July 11, 2018</b>	
10:30 a.m.	<b>Trust Fund - B6-W - BOS Center</b>
1:00 p.m.	<b>Standing Meetings - BOS Center</b> Internal Affairs - Room B-10 Economic - Room B-7W Finance - Room B-4E
2:00 p.m.	<b>Standing Meetings - BOS</b> Center Constitution & By-Laws - Room B-9
4:00 p.m.	<b>VA&amp;R - The Grille at the Wyndham</b>
4:30 p.m.	<b>Americanism - B4-E - BOS Center</b>
6:30 p.m.	<b>DEC Photo</b> Buddinger Room (lower level) BOS Center
7:00 p.m.	<b>DEC Meeting</b> Buddinger Room (lover level) BOS Center

<b>Thursday, July 12, 2018</b>			
7:30 a.m.	Breakfast with Leading Candidate for National Commander Wyndham - Capitol Room (Mezzanine level) <b>by invitation only</b>		
9:00 a.m.	Convention Committee Meetings - BOS Center <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;">                     Rules - B-1                      Americanism - B-4 East                      Children &amp; Youth - B-4 West                      Economics - B-6 West                      National Security - B-8                 </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;">                     Delegates-at-Large - B-9                      Rehabilitation – B-10                      Resolutions – B-3                      Judiciary - B-7 East                 </td> </tr> </table>	Rules - B-1 Americanism - B-4 East Children & Youth - B-4 West Economics - B-6 West National Security - B-8	Delegates-at-Large - B-9 Rehabilitation – B-10 Resolutions – B-3 Judiciary - B-7 East
Rules - B-1 Americanism - B-4 East Children & Youth - B-4 West Economics - B-6 West National Security - B-8	Delegates-at-Large - B-9 Rehabilitation – B-10 Resolutions – B-3 Judiciary - B-7 East		
10:00 a.m.	Credentials, Contests & Internal Affairs - B-2 Legislation - B-7 West		
10:00 a.m.	Chaplain's Seminar - B-6 East		
11:00 a.m. 2:00	Basic Training Seminar - Lower level - B11-B,C,D Sign up but will accept walk-ins		



<b>3:00 p.m. - District Caucuses BOS Center (lower level)</b> 14th - Room B-9 15th - Room B-1 16th - Room B-2 17th - Room B-6 East 18th - Room B-6 West 19th - Room B-7 East 20th - Room B-8 21st - Room B-7 West 22nd - Room B-4 West 23rd - Room B-10 24th & 25th - Room B-3	<b>5:00 p.m. - District Caucuses BOS Center (lower level)</b> 1st - Room B-8 2nd - Room B-7 East 3rd - Room B-7 West 4th - Room B-9 5th - Room B-6 West 7th - Room B-3 8th - Room B-6 East 9th - Room B-10 10th & 13th - Room B-1 11th - Room B-4 East 12th - Room B-4 West
6:00 p.m. - 1:00 a.m.	Commander's Party - Post #32

<b>Friday, July 13, 2018</b>	
7:30 a.m.	Past Department Commander's Breakfast Wyndham - Capitol Room (Mezzanine level) <b>by invitation only</b>
9:00 a.m.	Convention Session Opens - BOS Center
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.	Veterans Hiring Event (Employers arrive at 8:30 a.m.) Veterans Preview 10-11 a.m. Public 11 a.m. -2 p.m
5:30 p.m.	Legion Riders Parade lineup Leave Horace Mann parking lot at 5:45 p.m
6:00 p.m. - Midnight	Freedom Fest - 700 block of East Adams (roadway between Wyndham and Doubletree)
<b>Saturday, July 14, 2018</b>	
8:00 a.m.	Legion Family Memorial Service - BOS Center
9:30 a.m.	Convention Session Reconvenes - BOS Center
10:00 a.m.	Bike Show - Prairie Capital Convention Center (\$10.00 entry fee, judging ballots available at Legion Riders booth)
3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	American Legion Family Reception BOS Center, B11 B-D (lower level)
6:00 p.m.	Cocktails - Wyndham Mezzanine
7:00 p.m.	Commander's and President's Dinner Wyndham Ballroom

**DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS HOURS**

Wednesday, July 11, 2018 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Thursday, July 12, 2018 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Friday, July 13, 2018 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Saturday, July 14, 2018 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

**EMBLEM SALES**

Wednesday, July 11, 2018 11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, July 12, 2018 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Friday, July 13, 2018 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Saturday, July 14, 2018 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 Noon

**EXHIBITORS HOURS**

Thursday, July 12, 2018 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Friday, July 13, 2018 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Saturday, July 14, 2018 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 Noon

**DID YOU KNOW**

The American Legion Department of Illinois has a website with links to upcoming events, all the programs and events within the Department.

There are sections on Department and Membership Awards and how to apply for them. District and Division meeting dates and locations are also listed so we can see you at the meetings.

In the Media section there is an area for subscribing to the Department Newsletter – which is a great source of information for everyone from the Post/Unit/Squadron level and up. There are also archived issues so you can catch up on what you may have missed.

You can submit your organizations event photos to be published and in the Veterans Links section, you can find a lot of areas the American Legion is involved with that you most likely didn't know about that can be passed along to members.

Also, you can find, in the resources section, the decals for the Illinois Veteran License Plates to show your time of service and branch of service.

Don't forget to get your Post's website listed in the "Post Links" section under "Resources".

**<http://www.illegion.org>**



# Open House &

# CAR SHOW



**AWARDS WILL BE PRESENTED**

**AMERICAN LEGION POST 974  
9757 PACIFIC AVE, FRANKLIN PARK, IL**

Come in and see what the American Legion  
does in the Community, State and Nation  
learn about our history and yours.

Historical Re-enactors & Food will be available.

**Sunday July 22, 2018 10am to 5pm**

For more information call or email

Ken Bishop  
847.774.8356

americanlegion974@yahoo.com

*Veterans, and their Families  
Still Serving the Community*

Car Show registrations either call or online at  
[http://www.carshowfinder.org/events/american-legion-post-974-charity-car-show\\_29827.htm](http://www.carshowfinder.org/events/american-legion-post-974-charity-car-show_29827.htm)



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:

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

**Monthly Publication**  
**Editor**  
**Anthony Siciliano, Commander**