

Welcome to the American Legion
FIRST DIVISION
Newsletter



COMMANDER
JOSEPH P. LAMPERT

First Division is Online
at

<http://www.ilfirstdivision.org>



Newsletter for May 2019

First Division Commander Joseph P. Lampert

Comrades,

As of April 26th, the 1st Division is at 93.18%, and in second place! We have 3 Districts in the Top Ten! Congratulations to the 7th, 8th and 9th. They are actually the TOP THREE in the Department! Keep up the fantastic work! We are 922 members shy of 100%.

We have Poppy Days and the Armed Forces Day Celebration right around the corner. May is also when we observe Memorial Day. I ask you all to remember, Memorial Day is not a day of celebration for us (Veterans). It is a day of remembrance, to honor those who have made the supreme sacrifice for our country.

Get your reservations in for the Armed Forces Day Dinner with our National Commander, Brett Reistad, it will be a great time! There will also be a social with the National commander on Friday, May 17th at 7:00 pm at Morton Grove Post #134. Dress is Legion Casual.

The 1st Division Convention is June 1st. If you have not paid your delegate dues, you cannot vote!

Still Serving America

Joseph P. Lampert

First Division Sr. Vice Commander Gigi Callaway

Can you believe it's May already! The weather has been archetypal for Cook County.

This is the last month to get our membership in for 2018-2019 Legion year. It's our legacy – It's your legacy. All District and Post Commanders now have the cog! (True definition of the term “cog”— an instrumental part of the whole.) Let's do this!

Reminder to use your playbook and get involved with those programs that mean the most to you. (Boys/Girls State is in June.) However, remember your passion is yours and may not be another's. (There is something for everyone.) If the program or project is important to members, they will make the time for it. If it is not important to them, they will make excuses. Leaders know this, so connect them with what they want to do! Your post and district will be a much better place if that slight change is made.

May is a busy month all of us; Mother's Day, Armed Forces Day and Memorial Day just to name a few.

Just have to say the following because some may not understand; if you do and most of us will, speak it. Memorial Day is a focus for all of us. It shouldn't have to be said that it is a **day for remembering**, that is what Memorial Day is about. We don't say happy Memorial Day or go to a sale. There is nothing happy about those that have given the ultimate sacrifice. Nor do we make it cheap by thinking about a sale. It is a day of giving our respect. We ensure that the cemeteries where those fallen brothers and sister are laid have those flags firmly planted in the ground. It is a day when we speak of the actions that they bravely made so that we may have the freedoms of today. We plan for Memorial Day ceremonies so that folks hear the 21-gun salute given for our fallen and then silence at the first note of Taps. We speak to remember. We speak to ensure Americans remember.

Lastly, plan on the mini-convention. Get your delegate dues in if you haven't already. June 1st at Coulter Post, 900 S. LaGrange Road (intersection of 51st Street and LaGrange Road). Just a note that LaGrange Road will be closed between Ogden Ave and 47th Street that morning for the Pet Parade.

Warm regards, *Gigi Callaway*

First Division Jr. Vice Commander Al Pizarro

Hello Fightin' First Division,
I hope everyone is ready to enjoy Spring!! Armed Forces Day is Saturday May 18th, 2019. National Commander Brett Reistad will be in attendance. Please show our National Commander What We In IL Are Made Of!! This event will be held at the Des Plaines Elks Lodge, 495 Lee St., Des Plaines, IL. 60016. Price per Person is \$30.00. Table of Ten for \$300.00. Social Hour begins at 5p. Please do not forget the 1st Division Ad Book. Full Page = \$100.00, Half Page = \$ 50.00 and a Quarter Page = \$25.00. Mail all Ads, with checks made payable to the First Division Cook County Council, to Al Coughlin, P.O. Box 1322, Park Ridge, IL. 60068. Hope to see you there!!

Respectfully, *Al Pizarro*

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

I have been on the Department VA&R Commission for over 25 years and have been 1st Division VA&R Chairman for about twenty. During that tenure our Dept. Commission has reviewed over 200 resolutions submitted by our various Posts, Divisions and Districts. As our State Convention draws near I want to point out some that were actually implemented into practice or the law was changed. All of these originated from Posts in our Division

A Chicago area Post had a widow of a former POW whose claim for survivor's benefits was denied. Her husband passed away in 1997. The VA law at that time said widows were eligible only if the POW died on or after Sept. 11th 2001. A resolution was submitted, passed at State Convention and went on to become Public Law 111-275. The date was changed from 9/11/01 to 12/7/41. She got her benefits.

Another Post had a veteran whose case was on appeal for seven years. During that time he died and the widow carried on with that appeal. It was won but the law at that time stated accrued benefits on appeal could only go back 2 years. A resolution was submitted, passed at convention and became PL 108-170. The 2 year restriction was removed and she got 7 years of back payment.

A local veteran had visited California and noticed that drivers in that state could have “veteran” placed on their driver’s license. His Post did a resolution, that was passed and the State of Illinois now allows “veteran” designation on driver’s licenses.

A member who was a caregiver for his WWII disabled father, applied for assistance under the VA Caregiver Act. He was turned down as the law only covered vets disabled on or after 9/11/01. The resolution came to our Commission was passed and later became PL 115-182. The VA is now in the process of updating caregiver assistance back to WWII vets.

Several Posts in the Chicago area had Navy veterans who were being turned down Agent Orange benefits. They only served within 12 miles off the coast of Vietnam and never had “boots on the ground”. Resolutions were submitted, passed and there is now a recent court ruling which will probably go into effect this fall covering these Navy vets. Stay tuned for details.

So, if your Post or district has been discussing a topic or benefit which you feel should be changed or updated please prepare a resolution, pass it at your next meeting and send it to Department for consideration at the next State Convention. Who knows, it may become law!

If you need help preparing a resolution or need the forms visit our National website at

<https://www.legion.org/resolutions>

and you will find a plethora of information. Our Commission looks forward to your ideas.

No idea is too small, and all sorts of ideas have potential to change the country as we know it for the better.

Ray Toczek

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Jun. 1st Robert E. Coulter 1941 Mini Convention
900 La Grange Rd, La Grange, IL 60525

All Division meetings: DEC @ 7:00, meeting @ 7:30



*** 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

Post 1160 in Chicago Ridge

Jack Edwards 10-1-2018 Army Korea Adrian Kehoe 10-02-18 Army Korea
 Richard Komar 05-18-18 Army WWII Ray Schulte 10-10-18 Army WWII
 Joseph Soltis 08-28-18 Army Viet Nam

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May Events from ILLEGION.org

May 2, 19	Holocaust Remembrance Day
May 11, 2019 Through May 18, 2019	Statewide Armed Forces Week with National Commander, Brett Reistad
May 11, 2019 @ 4:00 pm – 10:00 pm	5th Division Dinner with National Commander Brett Reistad The Haven, 10289 Haven Rd., Carbondale IL 62901 Cost: \$15.00
May 12, 19	Mother's Day
May 12, 2019 @ 4:00 pm – 10:00 pm	4th Division Dinner with National Commander Brett Reistad Post 1922 (FOP Lodge 41), 5880 S. 6th St., Springfield IL 62056 Cost:\$15.00
May 14, 2019 @ 4:30 pm – 10:00 pm	3rd Division Dinner with National Commander Brett Reistad Post 979, 4501 S. Airport Rd., Bartonville IL 61607 Cost:\$15.00
May 15, 2019 @ 5:30 pm – 10:00 pm	2nd Division Dinner with National Commander Brett Reistad Post 589, 3S371 Mignin Dr., Warrenville IL 60555 Cost:\$15.00
May 18, 2019 @ 5:00 pm – 10:00 pm	Armed Forces Day Dinner with National Commander Brett Reistad Des Plaines Elks Lodge, 495 Lee St., Des Plaines IL 60016 Cost:\$30.00
May 24, 19	National Poppy Day
May 27, 19	Memorial Day

If you have an event that you would like us to help you promote, please send the information along to

Shepherd Kendal Bishop

at

div1newsletter@yandex.com

And we will try to fit your information into the newsletter.

May Calendar of events from LEGION.ORG

May 1, 2019	Child Welfare Foundation grant application available <u>Child Welfare Foundation grant application available</u>
May 4-5, 2019	Committee on Youth Education meeting
May 5, 2019	Child Welfare Foundation board of directors meeting <u>www.cwf-inc.org</u>
May 6-7, 2019	Spring Commission & Committee Meetings
May 8, 2019	V-E Day (1945)
May 8, 2019	Armed Forces Day Membership Target Date (100%) For more information, contact Matt Herndon, Deputy Director, Membership. <u>mherndon@legion.org</u> (317) 630-1406 <u>www.legion.org/membership/standings</u>
May 8-9, 2019	Spring NEC Meetings
May 9-10, 2019	100th Anniversary of St. Louis Caucus Celebration May 9-10, In St. Louis, Mo. Ceremony at Soldiers' Memorial, luncheon at Missouri Athletic Club (one of the sites of the caucus meetings).
May 12, 2019	Mother's Day
May 12-18, 2019	National Law Enforcement Week
May 15, 2019	Peace Officers' Memorial Day
May 18, 2019	Armed Forces Day
May 22, 2019	Maritime Day

May Calendar of events from LEGION.ORG Continued

May 24,
2019

National Poppy Day

May 27,
2019

Memorial Day

May 31,
2019

End of Child Welfare Foundation award year
www.cwf-inc.org

Possibly not as much as when you first got out but,
you know you have been in the military if.....

The Way You Walk

If you ever want to know who was a soldier, you can see from a mile away by the way they walk. Soldiers walk with a sense of purpose and control. Also bear in mind that if you're walking with a military man or woman, you'll probably have to speed up.

Sir And Ma'am

Soldiers are taught to be respectful. Be it the milkman, the flower lady or your parents, regardless of whom they're talking to, they will refer to males as 'sir' and females as 'ma'am'.

Military Jargon

You've probably heard phrases like, "roger that", "affirmative" or "negative" in movies and computer games. But this is actually how soldiers speak, even after they've left the Army. It's like learning another language, and once you've learned it, it's hard to let it go.

Phonetic Alphabet

Soldiers tend to spell out words with the military phonetic alphabet. They will say things like "juliet" for the letter "j" "delta" for "d". Maybe you've even heard them speaking right next to you and you didn't understand what the heck they were saying.

Hands In Pockets

Similar to the idea of keeping their rights hands ready, soldiers very rarely will keep their hands tucked into their pockets... even if the movies show you otherwise. Soldiers will usually assume a power stance with their hands on their hips.

Soldier Or Not

Whether a soldier has been out of the army for a week or for 30 years, their military behavior and habits stay with them forever. Despite many people trying to look and act like soldiers, we can always tell who the true heroic soldiers are.

Hats For The National Anthem

It completely grinds your gears when the American anthem starts playing at game and the men around you keep their hats on their heads. You know a thing or two about respecting the anthem and you wish they did too.

Short Showers

When you're in the military there's no time to have long luxurious showers. Showers are brief because they're a necessity and nothing more. Soldiers usually take this habit back to civilian life with them.

Super Human

Camaraderie is one of the most important rules in the military. It is crucial everyone has each other's backs, especially when things go wrong. Now this is something you do at any given point in time. At the office, at home, in the supermarket, anywhere and everywhere. You always help a fellow out.

Tight

"I've been out of the Navy for 16 years now and I still check my gig line," says JesterOne on *Business Insider*. For those of you who don't know, the gig line is the alignment of your cover, shirt buttons, tie, belt, and zipper whenever you are in dress uniform. Although that can also spill over into your real world.

"Associate with men of good quality if you esteem your own reputation; for it is better to be alone than in bad company." - **George Washington**

"If the freedom of speech is taken away then dumb and silent we may be led, like sheep to the slaughter." – **George Washington**

"I hope I shall possess firmness and virtue enough to maintain what I consider the most enviable of all titles, the character of an honest man." – **George Washington**

With the 1st Division mini convention coming up, here is a reminder that reports from the officers and committee chairs are due on what was accomplished during the year. Please bring your reports to the mini convention with enough copies to pass to the membership.

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>



Join the 1ST DIVISION on Saturday May 18th, 2019
For dinner with National Commander Brett Reistad
Dinner will be at the Des Plaines Elks Lodge 495 Lee St. Des Plaines
Dinner will be \$30.00 per person
Social Hour Starts at 5:00 PM
Dinner Starts at 6:30 PM
Dress: Coat and Tie
All 100% Post Commander's by 15 April 2019 will receive a dinner coupon and a picture with the National Commander.
Please R.S.V.P. to Al Pizzaro pzodad2@gmail.com
No Later Than May 10th 2019 to reserve your seat
All District and Division Officers are required to attend



The American Legion Family



The Illinois American Legion First Division is Proud to Host

Armed Forces Day Dinner

Saturday, May 18th, 2019

DES PLAINES ELKS LODGE NO. 1526

495 LEE ST. DES PLAINES, IL. 60016

Key Note Speaker

National Commander

Brett Reistad

\$90 per person

Social Hour starts at 5:00 pm (cash bar), Dinner at 6:30 pm

Family Style

London Broil, Baked Chicken, Oven-Brown Potatoes, Vegetable Medley, Salad, Dessert, Coffee, Tea

Please contact the hotel directly to make reservations.

EDWARD HOTEL / CHICAGO

6600 N. Mannheim Road

Rosemont, IL. 60018

(847) 544-7500

Single Room Rate: \$112.86 (after tax) Per Night (Group Code: ARM)

Reservation Deadline: Friday May 10, 2019

NO WALK-INS

Table of 10 may be reserved by listing names of attendees on back of reservation form.

Questions? Contact: Al Pizarro at 708-655-5282

Reservations: Name: _____

Phone: (____) _____

Amount enclosed: \$_____ I am reserving a table of 10 (names are listed on the back)

Checks are to be made payable to: **The American Legion First Division Council**

Mail reservations to: **P.O. Box 280 Riverside, Illinois 6054280**

THE AMERICAN LEGION – 100 YEARS YOUNG



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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Monthly Publication
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