

Welcome to the American Legion
FIRST DIVISION
Newsletter



COMMANDER
JOSEPH P. LAMPERT

First Division is Online
at

<http://www.ilfirstdivision.org>



Newsletter for September 2018

First Division Commander Joseph P. Lampert

Greetings Comrades. I am currently on the 13th annual Legacy Run to end with our 100th National Convention. I will report on both at our September meeting. September is a busy month: Division meeting on the 5th, DEC and Commanders homecoming on the 22nd. Summer vacations are coming to an end and Posts will start meeting again. Now is the time to push renewals!

Still Serving America

Joseph P. Lampert

First Division Sr. Vice Commander Gigi Callaway

It is September and the Autumn season will begin. Also, the equinox is now in front of us. (Not speaking about the Chevy car. An equinox is commonly regarded as the moment when the plane (extended indefinitely in all directions) of Earth's equator passes through the center of the Sun, which occurs twice each year: around 20 March and 22–23 September. In other words, it is the point at which the center of the visible Sun is directly above the Equator.) The first and last membership goals revolves around the equinox. Fascinating

coincidence!

The District conference calls took place in August and went well for our first effort. Planning and strategies will continue as reports will indicate posts to hone in on for each District. Additionally, Districts are encouraged to get their Membership Committees in place and active, if they have not yet finished this critical step. This step will assist in reaching goal.

It is asked that everyone get in the game or in front of it. Either way be a team player! We need you. We need everyone from the individual post member to each Legion officer's involvement in "making this happen".

1. Our first goal is to have everyone reaching 40 percent or more by American Legion Day, September 16th
2. Those Posts that are already on fast track: Your goal is 60 % by the Department Home Coming and DEC which is **September 22, 2018**. (Easy to remember because is also the day of the equinox.) Additionally, pins to win and more!
3. End of 2018 is 100 percent but not less than 85 percent by 2018 (end of year, December 31, 2018)
4. American Legion birthday we are celebrating 100 years - March 16, 2019.
 - A)The American Legion was chartered by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic veterans' organization. Focusing on service to veterans, servicemembers and communities, the Legion evolved from a group of war-weary veterans of World War I into one of the most influential nonprofit groups in the United States.
 - B)Over the years, the Legion has influenced considerable social change in America, won hundreds of benefits for veterans and produced many important programs for children

and youth.

C)The final goal is 100 percent membership **in their honor** [the group of war-weary veterans of WW-I that formed our organization] and the beginning of our legacy.

We are only as strong as our weakest link. If you are in a leadership role; let's begin with bringing up the posts that are already behind in membership. In short, if a post is NOT at 40 % in September they need assistance. We are in this together! If you need my assistance contact me. (It's best to email or text.)

Lastly, please ensure you attend the Leadership Seminar on Saturday, November 3rd at 9 am. Information located herein this newsletter.

Warm regards, *Gigi Callaway*

First Division Jr. Vice Commander Al Pizarro

Hello All First Division Members,
I hope you are all well. I am in the process of scheduling appointments at different venues to discuss pertinent details of these events and will have information regarding the Armed Forces Day dinner and the Past Commanders luncheon very soon.

Respectfully, *Al Pizarro*

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

For our new **Post Service Officers** and those returning thanks for stepping into a very worthwhile position. VA&R is one of the pillars of the American Legion and with our Post Service Officers help we can ensure that Legionnaires in our 9th. District receive all the benefits they are entitled to from the VA. So that you can know how to reach my coworkers and myself, we are at the Veterans Affairs and

Rehabilitation office located at 2122 W. Taylor St. in Chicago. We are in the VA Regional Office building and occupy room 106. Our walk-in hours are Monday through Thursday from 9:00 to 12:00.

Appointments can be made for other times or days. You can also reach us by telephone at 312-980-4266. The lines are open Monday through Friday from 8:00 to 4:00. We have 24/7 voicemail when we are closed. We can also be reached at the e-mail address listed above. Our office has three full-time and one part-time Service Officer with over 85 years of combined experience in the VA claims process and benefits. We can assist our comrades with claims for compensation, pension, burial, hospital care, etc. For other benefits, where needed, we can refer you to the correct points of contact. Our office looks forward to working with all our returning and new Service Officers in the upcoming Legion year.

For our new and returning **Post Adjutants** if you have lost track of one of your Post members due to a change of address or you're not sure if one of your members have passed away please contact me and I'll check it out. I not only have access to the Department membership information but also several computer search programs and may be able to locate their new address or confirm their death.

We had excellent results this year on the resolutions that were submitted from our Division. Over 95% of them passed and went on to the National convention. I talked with the resolution chairman on the National level and she told me that our Department and our Division had the most in the nation. WELL DONE!

HOT OFF THE PRESSES! We are once again looking to hire a full-time Service Officer. If interested go to www.illegion.org where you can download the application.

Finally I wish to thank our new Commander, Joe Lampert, for allowing me to serve again as the 1st Division Service Officer. I look forward to working with him and all of you.

Remember no question is unimportant or stupid and all rumors should be checked out.

Ray Toczek

First Division Adjutant Leonard Jakubiak

To: All Post Commanders, Sr. Vice, Jr. Vice, Adjutants, Service Officers; District Officers; and SAL Officers of the 1st Division.
Hosted by The Great 8th District

Subject: Leadership Seminar-Saturday, November 3rd @ the Marrs-Meyer Post 991; 11001 S. Depot St.; Worth, IL. 60482. Phone# 708-448-7006. Cost will be \$10.00 ea. to cover donuts and lunch. Make checks payable to The Great 8th District, and mail to:

William Winters
Evergreen Park Post 854
9701 South Kedzie Ave.
Evergreen Park, IL. 60805

Now that we are into the 2018-2019 Membership Year, and as we look to the future of our Post it becomes a top priority to search out, train and support dedicated Legionnaires and SAL Members to become the "Leaders of Tomorrow" within the 1st Division's Districts and Posts.

With that challenge at hand, The Department Leadership Team has developed important, useful information that will assist current Post, District and SAL Officers that want to take on new and rewarding roles within the American Legion.

This session will include Leadership Seminars for Commanders, Senior and Vice Commanders, Adjutants, and Post Service Officers. We believe that the future of the American Legion will only progress and be successful with new and effective leaders. Therefore we are asking each Post to bring at least 2 additional Post and/or SAL

members. These members should be those that you feel will be active leaders within the 1st Division's Districts and Posts.

The Post will be open @ 9am for registration, coffee and donuts. We will plan to start promptly @ 10am. An early start is our goal and will insure we keep with-in our time schedule. A lunch break is planned. Please confirm back to Rick Mitchell by email @ cajungator212@gmail.com or call him @ 773-318-9863 with your number attending by October 24th so we can plan accordingly. If you are unable to RSVP you are still welcome to attend the Seminar. Our target is a minimum of 50 attending.

Attendees will have the unique opportunity to succeed, to become a positive and effective leader, and to preserve our great organization and our programs committed to our Active Duty, Our Veterans, Our Youth and Our Communities. Join us in this very special and unique opportunity, it is our future.

Regards,

THE DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sept. 5th Morton Grove Post 134
6140 Dempster St. Morton Grove, IL 60053

Nov. 7th Des Plaines Post #36
1291 Oakwood Ave. Des Plaines, IL 60016

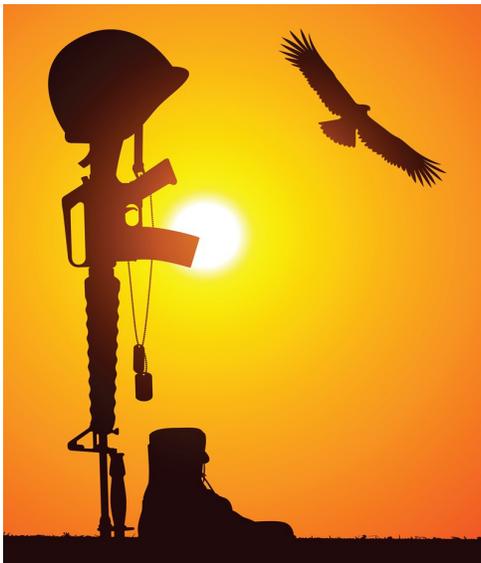
Dec. 16th Robert E. Coulter 1941 Christmas Party
9005 La Grange Rd, La Grange, IL 60525

Feb. 6th Morton Grove Post #134
6140 Dempster St. Morton Grove, IL 60053

Apr. 3rd Harold Washington 1987
4500 S Michigan Ave, Chicago, IL 60653

Jun. 1st Robert E. Coulter 1941 Mini Convention
9005 La Grange Rd, La Grange, IL 60525

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



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

OFFICER CONTACT INFORMATION

COMMANDER:
JOE LAMPERT
Phone: (847) 417 - 8672
Email: the-natureboy1@comcast.net

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER:
GIGI CALLAWAY
Phone: (224) 800 - 1177
Email: ILLfirstdivision@gmail.com

JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER:
GIGI CALLAWAY
Phone: (224) 800 - 1177
Email: ILLfirstdivision@gmail.com

DIVISION ADJUTANT:
LEONARD JAKUBIAK
Phone: (773) 763-7308
Email: div1adj@yandex.com

FINANCE OFFICER:
BERNARD DARMETKO
Phone: (708) 860 - 1897
Email: bcdarmetko@comcast.net
(Please note Bernard's email has changed).

CHAPLAIN:
PATRICK J. RAFFERTY
Phone: (708) 602-5878
Email: irish1939@comcast.net

SERVICE OFFICER:
RAYMOND TOCZEK
Phone: (312) 980 - 4264
Email: Raymond.toczek@va.gov

ASSISTANT SERVICE OFFICER:
CHARLES BOSKO
Phone: (312) 980 - 4512
Email: Charles.bosko@illinois.gov

September Events from ILLEGION.org

September 5, 2019
Commander's Appointments Meeting

September 16, 2018
American Legion Day

September 22, 2018
Department Executive Committee Meeting 1PM

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@yahndex.com

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



“CELEBRATING 99 YEARS OF SERVICE!”

American Legion Auxiliary
Saturday November 3, 2018

Merle Guild Post 208
121 E. Douglas Ave, Arlington Heights, IL

Spaghetti Dinner, Desserts, Dancing and Raffles
5:00 pm to 6:00 pm Cocktails (available at the bar)
6:00 pm to 7:00 pm Dinner - 8:00 pm till 11:00 pm Dancing
Cost \$20.00

Please make checks payable to Ninth District and mail them to
Susan Heinz-Wojcik
390 W. Mahogany Drive #201, Palatine, IL 60067

“Proceeds go to the Department President Campaign Fund for
Sue Cunniff Coughlin who will be running for
Department President 2019 - 2020
which will be the 100th year for the Auxiliary”

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>

Elements of the Emblem of the American Legion

 A circular emblem consisting of numerous thin, golden rays radiating from a central point, resembling a sunburst.	<p><u>The Rays of the Sun</u> The rays of the sun form the background of our proud emblem and suggests the Legion's principles will dispel the darkness of violence and evil.</p>
 A circular wreath made of golden laurel leaves, symbolizing honor and victory.	<p><u>The Wreath</u> The wreath forms the center, in loving memory of those brave comrades who gave their lives in the service of the United States that liberty might endure.</p>
 A golden five-pointed star with a dark brown circle in the center containing the white letters "U.S." in a serif font.	<p><u>The Star</u> The star, victory symbol of World War I, also symbolizes honor, glory and constancy. The letters "U.S." leave no doubt as to the brightest star in the Legion's star.</p>
 Two concentric rings: an outer ring of blue with a yellow border, and an inner ring of yellow with a blue border.	<p><u>Outer Rings</u> The larger of two outer rings stands for the rehabilitation of our sick and disabled comrades. The smaller inside ring denotes the welfare of America's children.</p>
 Two concentric rings: an outer ring of dark brown with small white dots, and an inner ring of white with a dark brown border.	<p><u>Inner Rings</u> The smaller of two inner rings set upon the star represents service to our communities, states and the nation. The larger outer ring pledges loyalty to Americanism.</p>
 The words "AMERICAN" and "LEGION" in a golden, serif font, arranged in an arc above and below a central white space.	<p><u>American Legion</u> The words American Legion tie the whole together for truth, remembrance, constancy, honor, service, veterans affairs and rehabilitation, children and youth, loyalty, and Americanism.</p>



First Division, Cook County Council
The American Legion,
Department of Illinois
4154 N. Pontiac Ave., Chicago, Illinois
60634

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Bloomington, IL
Permit No. 18

If you would have any issues or concerns
about the newsletter, please feel free
to contact:
Shepherd K. S. Bishop
div1newsletter@yandex.com

Monthly Publication
Editor
Joe Lampert, Commander