

Welcome to the American Legion
FIRST DIVISION
Newsletter



Commander
Frank B. Thompson III

First Division is Online
at

<http://www.ilfirstdivision.org>

Newsletter for October 2022

First Division Commander Frank B. Thompson III

TO All My Comrades of The Fighting FIRST DIVISION:

I welcome one and all into this new month, it comes with challenges, effort and naturally determination ahead for us all.

First things first and that you know that it's about membership dues as always, we cannot grow or improve ourselves nor try to go around this.

We have to face the facts; this will always remain our #1 goal in the legion. Our 1st division meeting which was held at The Dori Miller Post #915, September 7, 2022, came out well.

Our 2nd divisional meeting will be held Nov.2, 2022 at The Franklin Park Post #974, 9757 Pacific Ave.at 7pm.

Who of you **REMEMBER** what **SPOKEO** means?

SPOKEO is to email Jim Talaska (Membership Committee) for district and post member's phone, email and address if needed.

Last of All, Remember the Buddy Check System, It Works.

Frank B. Thompson III

Sr. Vice Commander Joe Hedrick

THE PRICE OF A CUP OF COFFEE A MONTH

The inflation has got to the point that your Legion membership is less than a cup of coffee in a restaurant. It is quite a bargain for what the Legion offers. It should be easy to find new members of the 700,000 veterans throughout the state.

The catholic church has stopped sponsoring scout troops. The parents are between 30 and 50, the age of post 911 veterans. This is an opportunity to meet younger veterans and get them involved.

There are many Legion programs that help fellow veterans that are a good opportunity for the new members to get involved. Each post should look at the four pillars to see what the post should do to make themselves visible in their community.

We should do more than have a monthly meeting.

Joe Hedrick

Jr. Vice Commander Don Horn

POST LEVEL TRAINING is coming to a location near you. National and Department HQ's are getting back to the basics and are looking to train The American Legion Post Officers and anyone else who is a member in good standing.

Topics to be covered include Legion History, Building a Better Post, Finance, Membership, Legion Programs, Public Relations, MyLegion Computer Training, Buddy Checks, Legion Paperwork, and Legion Bylaws.

The location stops inside our Division are; October 1st at Tattler from 0900-1500, October 15th at River Grove from 0900-1500 and December 3rd at Broadview-Hillside with time pending. You can attend any or all. Please RSVP with the Post directly or let me know and I will notify the Post.

DON HORN

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MEDICAL OFFICER
DR. DON HORN

HISTORIAN
HAROLD TONEY



Past 1st Division Commander Tom Chambers receives an award for his leadership during the previous year.

ARTICLE IV – Voting

| | |
|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Section 1 | Each Post shall be entitled to as many delegates as it was entitled to at the last preceding Department Convention, and shall be entitled to as many additional delegates as its paid-up membership, as certified by the Department Adjutant. Would entitle it to have in Department Convention. |
| Section 2 | Each Post shall certify the names of its elected delegate or delegates and alternate or alternates to the Council Adjutant, who shall enroll said names on a roster, arranged by Districts. In the absence of duly accredited delegates of a Post at any meeting, the duly accredited alternates of such Post shall assume the functions of delegates and shall be entitled to all the rights and privileges of delegates. No delegate to the Council shall be qualified as a duly authorized representative of his or her Post, nor be permitted a vote in the council proceedings until he or her post has paid the administrative fee of ten dollars (\$10.00) per delegate per year. * |
| Section 3 | Changes, if any, in the name or names of duly accredited delegate of delegates, alternate or alternates, of any Post shall be certified to the Council Adjutant, for enrollment by him, not less than ten days prior to the Division Convention of the Cook County Council. No change or changes shall be recognized for the purpose of voting unless in compliance herewith |
| Section 4 | The Council shall levy and collect from each Post for its administrative expenses \$10.00 per delegate per year. * |

ARTICLE V - Nominations and Elections

| | |
|------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Section 1 | Nominations for all offices or seats on any elective committees except the Executive Committee, shall be made from the floor at the Annual Convention of the First Division on a roll call of Districts in numerical order each District may present as many candidates as it chooses, limiting nominating speeches to ten minutes each, with not more than two seconding speeches for any candidate not to exceed two minutes each. |
| Section 2 | Following the nominations, a vote shall be taken at Division Convention of the First Division, which shall be by secret ballot, which ballots shall be distributed by the Council Adjutant. A majority of the votes cast shall be required to elect, each person eligible to vote under ARTICLE IV being entitled to one vote only in the event that there be only one candidate for an elective office, he may be elected by voice vote. |
| Section 3 | Each of the aforementioned elected Department Officers and the elected officers of the Cook County Council during their terms of office, the members of the Executive Committee of the Cook County Council during his term of office, the District Commanders, the District Vice Commanders, the District Adjutants, and elected delegates from the Posts present, and all Past Commanders of the Cook County Council, shall each have only one vote therein. |
| Section 4 | Where a member is present and voting and is a member in more than one capacity including being a delegate, his alternate delegate being present may vote in his place as delegate. |
| Section 5 | In the absence of regular delegates from any Post, the duly elected alternates shall automatically become delegates The vote of any Post not represented by a delegate or alternate shall not be cast. |
| Section 6 | It shall be the duty of the Commander, at least 30 days prior to the election, to appoint an election committee, consisting of a Clerk and Judge from each District, selected by the respective District Commanders. In the event that the District Commander does not so act, it shall be the duty of the Division Commander to appoint a Clerk and a Judge from said District. |
| Section 7 | The Commander of the First Division shall appoint an additional member as Chairman of the election and the Election Committee. |
| Section 8 | It shall be the duty of the Adjutant to officially notify the Judges and Clerk of each District of their appointments and of the time and place of the Election Committee meeting prior to the Division Convention The Adjutant shall prepare all ballot and election materials and supplies. |
| Section 9 | The Election Committee shall decide its own rules of management of the election at its meeting, subject to the approval of the Council, and in keeping with these by-laws, The Chairman, with the council and assistance of the Election Committee, shall rule and decide on all objections or questions in connection with the election. |
| Section 10 | No candidate for any office being voted upon at said election shall be a member of the Election Committee. |

With the rise of self driving vehicles, it's only a matter of time until there's a country song where the guy's truck leaves him



Strength doesn't come from winning. Your struggles develop your strength. When you are faced with adversity and decide not to surrender... that is true strength.



Meeting Dates for 2022 – 2023 Term

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| November 2, 2022 | Franklin Park Post #974 9757 Pacific Avenue, Franklin Park, IL 60131 |
| December | OPERATION CANES – OPSEC – <i>Time Pending</i> Broadview Hillside Post #626 4941 Butterfield Road, Hillside, Illinois 60162 |
| February 1, 2023 | Morton Grove Post #134 6144 Dempster Street, Morton Grove, IL 60053 |
| April 5, 2023 | Tattler Post #973 4355 N. Western Avenue, Chicago, IL 60618 |
| June 3, 2023 | Evergreen Park Post #854 9701 South Kedzie Avenue, Evergreen Park, IL 60805 |

Department Medical Officer Don Horn

MEDICAL OFFICER October

Health topics discussed at National Convention:

FLU VACCINE & COVID BOOSTER are recommended for the fall. Flu vaccines should be available by October but call ahead to make sure your location has them. Covid Boosters are on hand. You may make an appointment or utilize the walk-in clinic.

PACT ACT is an expansive law covering benefits from illnesses caused by toxic exposure from Vietnam through the Afghanistan eras. Additional presumptive conditions from Agent Orange to toxic exposures from burn pits, and the contaminated water at Camp Lejeune are in this Act. This Act increases the period of time you have to enroll at the VA to ten years after discharge. There is a long list of presumptive diagnosis's based on presumptive exposure and your location where served including but not limited to multiple cancer classifications and pulmonary diseases. For questions or to file a claim contact a Certified Service Officer or the VA.

CAMP LEJEUNE JUSTICE ACT is now in the forefront in communications that many are receiving and seeing on TV which leads to questions and confusion. This Act allows for causative action against the federal government if you were at Camp Lejeune for at least thirty days from August 1, 1953 to December 31, 1987 for exposure to contaminated water. There is a 2 year window to file legal action after August 10, 2022. What is not being fully disclosed is a clause inside of this Act in which you will forfeit some of your VA benefits as well as some assistance from Medicare and Medicaid if the law suit is successful. Also there have been predatory claims for exorbitant fees up to 50% from some legal firms. Nationals recommendation as of August was to be patient and talk to a Certified Service Officer to discuss what course of action best suits your needs and file a claim at the VA. Currently National is working to vet a law firm to represent us with the CLJA, one who will represent The American Legion and veterans well and who will not price gouge. Once this process is complete they will share with the individual Departments who will send the information forward. Please be patient.

BE THE ONE is National Commander Troiola's top goal for the year, to help prevent Veterans Suicide. **Be The One** to ask veterans in your life how they are doing, **Be The One** to listen when a veteran needs to talk and **Be The One** to reach out when a veteran is struggling. Be the One to make a difference by reaching out, by talking and acting, to help destigmatize the notion of asking for assistance. **The Suicide Help Line is 988 (then press 1) or text 838255.**

Yours in Service, **DON**

Commander Lomac Payton's Homecoming Saturday, Sept 24, 2022

Photos by Harold Toney



Premier Boys State Board Meeting September 10th, 2022 Report

September 24, 2022

Greetings Comrades of the First Division Council,

The outcomes from the Board Meeting are as follows:

The Boys State Program is designed to have a Boys State Representative in each Post and/or Squadron, each District should have a Chairperson and that Chairman should be in contact with the local representatives and know what each post outreach activities are and

what is being done to raise money for the Post's Boys State Program. The Division Chairperson is to get regular reports from each District Chairman of the Status of Boys State Recruiting and Fundraising Status within the District.

Simple right, and I know you have heard this before or you should have.

The perfect model is to recruit to the Boys, have an informational meeting for the Boys and their Parents in the Spring, and get them to down to Eastern Illinois University for Illinois Premier Boys State each year.

However, we are not working this Model and now is the Time that we should be! The CPS last day of Class is June 7th, 2023. The schedule works in our Favor. We have 35,000 eligible Juniors in Cook County and the Boys State Board is requesting 350 students from us.

This is the plan of action that is needed. First let's get our Boys State Representatives chosen if they haven't been, then chose them, for the Posts and /or Squadrons and The District levels. Secondly, in the upcoming weeks Boys State Staff (6) will come to our Division to present in-depth training Seminar to provide us with the Tools we need for Recruitment and will include a Q&A portion and point of contacts for the schools in our areas.

Thirdly, let get to work and make this year the Best Boys State Program year ever. We sent 27 Boys last year and 1 went on to Boys Nation.

What is needed is the Name, address, cell phone number and email address of each Post and District Chairman. Then we will organize a few meetings (Zoom) to coordinate our Divisional efforts. To begin I need each Districts Boys State Chairman's contact information.

I've asked for Saturday October 29th as our Division 1st Choice as a training date. And we need a place to support the Boys State Staff Seminar. However, Saturday November 12th will be the date so SAVE the Date of the morning of November 12th. In the interest of Time please RSVP directly to me, my information is below.

If getting Boys State representatives proves difficult then I suggest that the Junior Vice Commanders of the Post / Squadron are assigned the Tasks.

Humbly submitted,

Derrick David Stinson, Board Member and Division Chairman
416 Douglas Street, Park Forest, IL 60466
773.330.5219 pnfwgm@ameritech.net

History is not there for you to **like** or **dislike**.
It is there for you to **learn from it**. And if it **offends** you, even better.
Because then you are less likely to **repeat it**.
It is not yours to **erase** or **destroy**.

'Those who do not learn history are doomed to repeat it.'

~George Santayana

**Pam Ray for American Legion Auxillary
National President**

CASH BASH

Grand Prize \$5,000.00

Drawing Saturday November 12, 2022

Farmer City American Legion Post 55

Doors open at Noon/ Meal at 1:00 PM

\$75.00 per ticket Admits one person for Dinner

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All Tickets Drawn-only 200 Sold

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988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline

“988” is the three-digit, nationwide phone number to connect directly to the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline.

Too many people experience suicidal crisis or mental health-related distress without the support and care they need. There are urgent mental health realities driving the need for crisis service transformation across our country. In 2020 alone, the U.S. had one death by suicide about every 11 minutes—and for people aged 10-34 years, suicide is a leading cause of death.

There is hope. The 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline – previously known as the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline – is a national network of more than 200 crisis centers that helps thousands of

people overcome crisis situations every day. These centers are supported by local and state sources as well as the Department of Health and Human Services' Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). As of July 16, 2022, all calls and text messages to "988" route to a 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline call center.

The 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline provides 24/7, confidential support to people in suicidal crisis or mental health-related distress.

- **New Nationwide Number:** 988 is more than just an easy-to-remember number — it's a direct connection to compassionate, accessible care and support for anyone experiencing mental health-related distress – whether thoughts of suicide, mental health, substance use crisis, or any other kind of emotional distress.
- **Provides Support:** People can also dial 988 if they are worried about a loved one who may need crisis support.
- **FCC Rules:** Under FCC rules, calls and texts to 988 will be directed to the Lifeline. Calls and texts to 1-800-273-8255 (TALK) will also continue to reach the 988 Lifeline even after the nationwide implementation of 988.
- **Saving Lives:** The FCC actions reflect its commitment to saving lives and connecting individuals to necessary intervention services. Switching to the easy-to-remember 988 makes it easier for individuals in crisis to access the help they need and decrease the stigma surrounding suicide and mental health issues.
- **Important Step:** The 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline is an important step toward strengthening and transforming crisis care in this country. It serves as a universal entry point so that no matter where you live, you can reach a trained crisis counselor who can help.
- **Help for Veterans:** For calls, pressing "1" after dialing 988 will connect you directly to the Veterans Crisis Lifeline which serves our nation's Veterans, service members, National Guard and Reserve members, and those who support them. For texts, continue to text the Veterans Crisis Lifeline short code: 838255.

Illinois Veterans' Home Chicago has 24 residents living there as it waits for federal certification to fill more beds; nurses picket for more staffing at facility

SEPTEMBER 13, 2022 by BRIAN NADIG

[HTTP://NADIGNEWSPAPERS.COM/2022/09/13/ILLINOIS-VETERANS-HOME-CHICAGO-HAS-24-RESIDENTS-LIVING-THERE-AS-IT-WAITS-FOR-FEDERAL-CERTIFICATION-TO-FILL-MORE-BEDS/](http://nadignewspapers.com/2022/09/13/illinois-veterans-home-chicago-has-24-residents-living-there-as-it-waits-for-federal-certification-to-fill-more-beds/)

The first residents began moving into the Illinois Veterans' Home Chicago at 4250 N. Oak Park Ave. in January, more than a dozen years after plans for the facility were announced, but only 24 of the 200 beds are occupied as the facility awaits federal certification.

In addition, the Illinois Nurses Association claims the facility has inadequate staffing for the 24 residents, with only one nurse on duty at times during the day shift and that some families have removed their relative out of the home due to staffing issues.

Association members and others picketed outside the veterans home on Tuesday morning, Sept. 13, and said that the nearby Chicago-Read Mental Health Center, 4200 N. Oak Park Ave., also needed more nurses.

The Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs is working with other agencies in an effort to recruit nurses during a time it described as nationwide staffing challenges for the health care industry. Staffing issues are commonplace these days at many nursing homes, hospitals and other healthcare facilities, including emergency rooms, where patients sometimes have to wait for hours, according to published reports.

"This morning I stood with nurses and allies from our new Chicago Veterans home in

Dunning to hear directly about the heavy burden they carry as they care for our aging veterans who need focused care and compassion,” state Representative Lindsey LaPointe (D-19) said.

“As the new home scales up to a full capacity of 200 residents, we must fully support our healthcare workers by ensuring safe workplaces, including safe staffing ratios, and creating easier pathways to state employment. Today, we have none of these things.”

The department hopes to complete the certification process by the end of the 2022. Once the certification process is completed, more residents can be admitted, but there is no projected timeline for when the facility could be operating at capacity, according to the department.

IDVA public information officer Maureen Hartigan issued the following statement: “The Veterans’ Home at Chicago currently has 24 residents in its care, a limited census while it awaits final USDVA (U.S. Department of Veterans’ Affairs) certification, which is nearing completion. “IDVA currently holds a license from IDPH (Illinois Department of Public Health), the first step of the USDVA certification process, which allow the home to demonstrate that it is operational with at least 20 residents.

“We continue to hire and train staff for the home as we prepare to welcome additional residents. As always, we ensure that residents are admitted safely based on the needs of the veteran and staffing.

The process will continue to be methodical.”

The project has faced numerous delays over the years.

Construction of the home was underway in 2015 when then-governor Bruce Rauner refused to release the funds needed for the work to continue. At the time there was a budget stalemate between the Republican governor and the Democratic-controlled legislature.

After the budget impasse ended, a structural design error in the building’s foundation was discovered in 2017, leading to more delays. And then the pandemic created additional challenges in terms of staffing the facility and obtaining supplies and other materials, according to the department.

Hartigan said that the veterans department has been working with the state Department of Central Management Services and the Governor’s Office to address staffing issues. Governor J.B. Pritzker has authorized CMS to develop “on an emergency basis” a statewide recruiting campaign to attract staff members for state mental health centers, facilities for persons with developmental disabilities, veterans’ homes and prisons. More information is available at illinois.jobs2web.com.

The American Legion Billy Caldwell Post 806 recently announced that it is donating new bathrobes and other clothing items to the home’s residents through the American Legion’s “Gifts to the Yanks” program.

As a skilled nursing facility, the home provides care to those who may need assistance with a variety of daily activities, such as getting dressed, bathing or medication/prescription monitoring. Services for patients with dementia also are available.

To be eligible, an applicant must have been honorably discharged from the U.S. Armed Forces and have served during a war or have a service-connected disability or injury, with additional criteria for peacetime veterans.

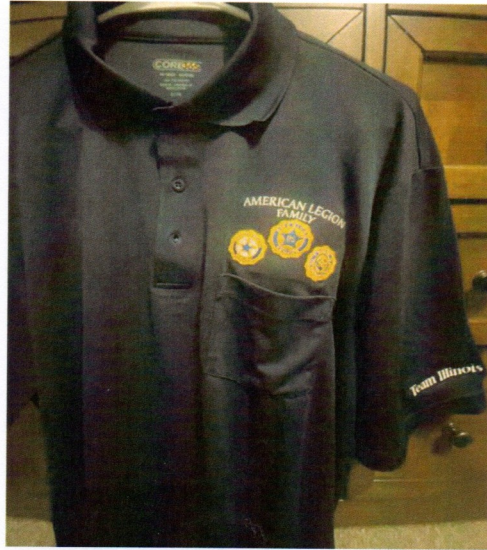
Admission also is based on the ability of the home to provide adequate care for the applicant’s needs, including having an available bed in the required category of care.

Pam Ray for National President's Steering Committee

Wear your Navy Shirt now to show our support for Pam!

If Pam is elected in 2025, we will wear these shirts at the installation to show our support.

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Make checks payable to Linda Oakley

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WEBSITE

Chief Editor: Frank B. Thompson III

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 1st Division newsletter sent to you via E-Mail please send a
request to us at

Division1ILNews@yahoo.com