

## **Department of Illinois DRC Ad Hoc October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025, Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Attendees:** Wayne Fischer 2<sup>nd</sup> Div. Chairman; Larry Hippert 1<sup>st</sup> Div.; Wayne Erickson 3<sup>rd</sup> Div.; Don Horn 1<sup>st</sup> Div. Commander; Marty Conatser Past Dept. Adjutant.

### **Task: Consolidate the 1<sup>st</sup> Division from 7 Districts to 4 Districts**

**Don Horn updated the Group on current status of this consolidation of Districts. The 1<sup>st</sup> Division District Commanders met this past August, and the consensus was to move forward on Redistricting the 1<sup>st</sup> Division as follows: 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> into the 2<sup>nd</sup> District; 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> District into the 3<sup>rd</sup>; 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> into the 1<sup>st</sup> District; and the 8<sup>th</sup> into the 4<sup>th</sup> District.**

**Boundaries have been tentatively drawn but may be subject to change prior to the final approval. There is more discussion coming out of the 2<sup>nd</sup> District and it will need to be covered to ensure what is needed will come together by our Spring DEC for final approval at our 2026 State Convention. Marty will be assisting on that.**

**As part of this, there are Posts that may want to remain in a District outside a designated District, which has happened before and worked okay. This could be more last minute decisions.**

**Don also included a preliminary 1<sup>st</sup> Division Redistricting Resolution-Phase 1 that has been reviewed by the District Officers. (see attached)**

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**1st DIVISION**  
**REDISTRICTING RESOLUTION**  
**PHASE I**

**WHEREAS,** The 1st Division is currently made up of Cook County; and

**WHEREAS,** Currently, the 1st Division has within its' boarders seven Districts consisting of Districts 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9; and

**WHEREAS,** The 1st Division membership has been reducing over the years to where District mergers have been considered; and

**WHEREAS,** It is geographically logical to combine Districts 2 & 3, Districts 4 & 5, Districts 7 & 9; and

**WHEREAS,** The 8th District covers the bottom 20% of the Division and bound by County Boundaries on three of its four sides therefore it is advantageous to stand alone; and

**WHEREAS,** Separate agreements of each individual merger will be submitted with this resolution; and

**WHEREAS,** A follow-up resolution will be submitted with further details on the renaming of Districts, recommended boundaries and other warranted details; therefore be it

**RESOLVED,** The Redistricting of the 1st Division be made at the Departments earliest convience and at one time in unison if possible to save the Department and her Division and Districts unnecessary time and expense; and therefore be it finally

**RESOLVED,** By The American Legion, Department of Illinois, at the Annual Spring Meeting, assembled in Bloomington, Illinois, April 11, 2026, that The American Legion, Department of Illinois approves the 1st Division recommendations of Redistricting.

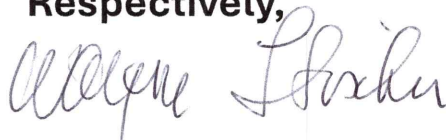
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## **Moving Forward:**

**Larry Hippert has prepared and presented material supporting the next possible step focusing on moving forward to 4 Divisions with 4 Districts in each or 16 Department Districts. Certainly, these changes will bring new challenges in Leadership and Communication. While both the Divisions and Districts will be larger, we must find the Leaders and more effective means to get the word out that does help to turn around our Membership back to the positive. There are around 450,000 eligible Veterans in Illinois to join the American Legion according to the Illinois Veterans Assistance Commission.**

**Our first challenge is to resolve our 1<sup>st</sup> Division Redistricting, and our plan is to have a Resolution(s) to present at the Spring DEC for support, then for a final presentation at our 2026 Illinois State Convention.**

**Respectively,**

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Wayne Fischer", written in dark ink.

**Wayne Fischer, Chair**



# THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS

## DIVISIONS and DISTRICTS

### FIRST DIVISION:

*1st - 9th Districts:* Cook County

### SECOND DIVISION:

*10th:* Lake County

*11th:* McHenry, Kane, DuPage, Will

*12th:* Winnebago, Boone, DeKalb, Lasalle, Kendall, Grundy

*13th:* Jo Daviess, Stephenson, Carroll, Ogle, Lee, Whiteside

### THIRD DIVISION:

*14th:* Rock Island, Mercer, Henderson, Warren, Hancock, McDonough

*15th:* Henry, Knox, Fulton, Adams, Schuyler

*16th:* Bureau, Stark, Putnam, Marshall, Peoria, Tazewell

*20th:* Mason, Brown, Cass, Menard, Morgan, Scott, Pike, Calhoun, Greene, Jersey

### FOURTH DIVISION:

*17th:* Woodford, Livingston, McLean, Ford, Logan

*18th:* Kankakee, Iroquois, Vermilion, Edgar, Clark, Cumberland

*19th:* Champaign, DeWitt, Piatt, Macon, Moultrie, Douglas, Coles, Shelby

*21st:* Sangamon, Christian, Macoupin, Montgomery

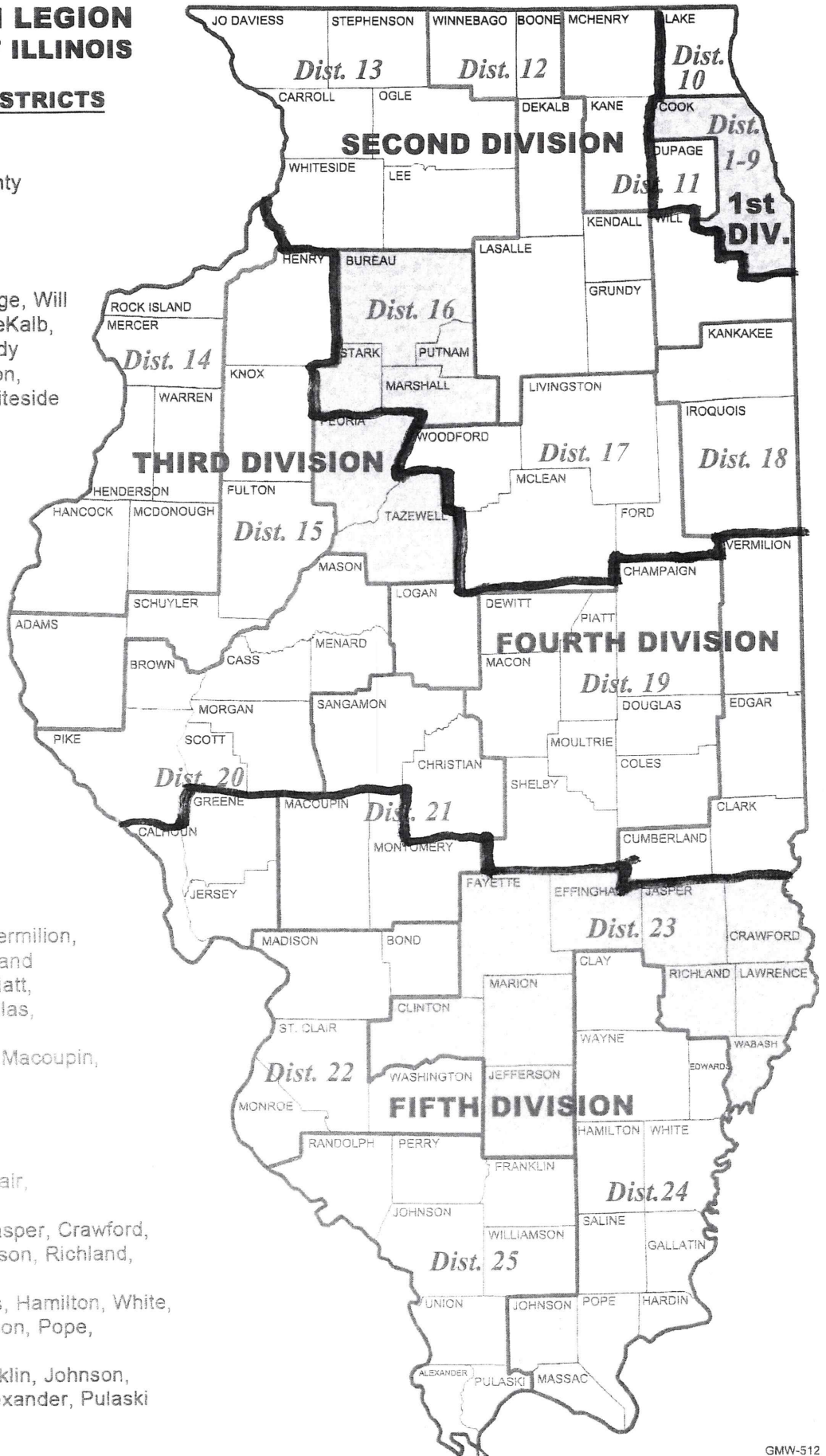
### FIFTH DIVISION:

*22nd:* Madison, Bond, St. Clair, Monroe, Washington

*23rd:* Fayette, Effingham, Jasper, Crawford, Clinton, Marion, Jefferson, Richland, Lawrence, Wabash

*24th:* Clay, Wayne, Edwards, Hamilton, White, Saline, Gallatin, Johnson, Pope, Hardin, Massac

*25th:* Randolph, Perry, Franklin, Johnson, Williamson, Union, Alexander, Pulaski



Department Membership by county

Division 1		Division 2		Division 3		Division 4	
County	# of Members	County	# of Members	County	# of Members	County	# of Members
Cook	9780	Will	2244	McLean	822	Calhoun	176
Lake	2031	Kane	1495	Woodford	499	Greene	224
DuPage	2159	McHenry	1308	Mercer	150	Jersey	249
Total	13970	Boone	333	Rock Island	737	Macoupin	379
		DeKalb	618	Henry	625	Montgomery	175
		Grundy	322	Vermilion	723	Bond	148
		Kendall	554	Champaign	1080	Madison	1706
		LaSalle	1162	Warren	207	Monroe	315
		Winnebago	1183	Hancock	204	St. Clair	1154
		Carroll	309	Henderson	90	Washington	211
		Jo Daviess	227	McDonough	297	Clinton	839
		Lee	260	Fulton	604	Crawford	243
		Ogle	288	Peoria	1101	Effingham	601
		Stephenson	252	Tazewell	710	Fayette	196
		Whiteside	638	Adams	324	Jasper	200
		Bureau	276	Schuyler	98	Jefferson	228
		Stark	172	Brown	64	Lawrence	126
		Marshall	161	Cass	93	Marion	376
		Putnam	95	Mason	150	Richland	148
		Ford	169	Menard	85	Wabash	79
		Livingston	468	Morgan	252	Clay	218
		Iroquois	643	Pike	241	Edwards	57
		Kankakee	553	Scott	102	Gallatin	181
		Total	13730	Sangamon	1310	Hamilton	80
				Logan	387	Hardin	31
				Christian	375	Massac	168
				DeWitt	347	Pope	32
				Douglas	178	Saline	222
				Macon	393	Wayne	115
				Moultrie	218	White	202
				Piatt	296	Franklin	365
				Shelby	468	Jackson	321
				Cumberland	139	Perry	187
				Cumberland	63	Pulaski	57
				Clark	261	Randolph	536
				Total	13693	Union	59
						Williamson	410
						Total	11014