

THE AMERICAN LEGION OF IOWA - DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS REPORT DISTRICT SPRING CONFERENCES 2018

DEPARTMENT STAFF UPDATE

Programs Director – The position had been open since 09/15/2017 and was filled on 02/19/2018 by Ryan Kowlessar.

Business Manager – Kate Murphy resigned effective 01/31/2018. The position was filled on 02/01/2018 by Rebecca Lossing, who then resigned on 03/09/2018. The position was filled by a temp agency from 03/21-3/23/2018. On 03/27/2018 the position was filled by Becky Bowden from Accountemps and continues to fill the position.

Claims Representative – Tom Beasley resigned on 03/05/2018 and we have not yet filled this position in the Service Office

Service Officer – Gary Carter underwent knee surgery on 03/20/2018 and was on medical leave. He is now back in the office.

100TH ANNIVERSARY MERCHANDISE

We have merchandise for sale as well as raffle tickets for items commemorating the Centennial of The American Legion

- Lapel/cap pin \$5.00
- Coin/medallion \$10.00
- Cordial glasses \$10.00
- 2018 Pistol raffle - \$20.00/ticket with a limit of 500 tickets sold. Drawing at 2018 Department Convention.

DEPARTMENT PARKING LOT

Fundraising to replace the parking lot at Department continues. An anonymous donor has offered to match up to \$20,000 for donations raised since Department Convention. The deadline was April 15, but has been extended to April 30. We are very near the \$20,000 goal. Please make your donation go further by donating before the April 30 deadline.

DEPARTMENT LEADERSHIP SCHOOL – June 1-3, 2018

The Department Leadership School will be held June 1-3, 2018, at the Holiday Inn Mercy Campus in Des Moines. The school will run on Friday from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.; Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and Sunday from 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

The Department will cover the cost of six (6) attendees per District, one of which should be the incoming District Commander. This includes room (based on double occupancy), course materials, breakfast and lunch on Saturday and breakfast on Sunday. Department will not reimburse attendees for mileage or per diem. District authorized attendees should pick up your registration packets today.

Endorsed candidates for Department and National offices are also invited to attend at Department expense. Candidates are in addition to the six allocated for each District. Candidates may obtain registration forms on our website or by contacting John Derner at Department Headquarters.

Any attendee requesting his/her own room will be required to pay entire room charge of \$89.95 + tax.

Additional attendees from each District are allowed, but will be required to pay for lodging. The Department will assist those attending at own expense with finding roommates to help reduce cost of attendance.

Newly elected 2018-2019 District Commanders must submit the List of Authorized Attendees for your District before May 10, 2018. Individual Registration Forms are due no later than May 15, 2018. Registration forms are also available online at www.ialegion.org.

DISTRICT COMMANDER ORIENTATION – JUNE 1, 2018

The District Commander Orientation will be held at Department Headquarters from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Lunch will be provided. This session is for 2018-2019 District Commanders and candidates for Department Commander.

DEPARTMENT CONVENTION – JULY 13-15, 2018 – WATERLOO

All meetings will be held at the Ramada & Five Sullivan Brothers Convention Center. Ask for The American Legion rate when making reservations. Schedule will appear in the Iowa Legionnaire and will also be available on the Department website. The Call to Convention and Post Delegate Strength information will be mailed to posts 30 days prior to Department Convention.

Ramada & Five Sullivan Brothers Convention Center
205 West 4th Street
Waterloo, IA 50701
319-233-7560
Rate: \$95.00

DEPARTMENT CONVENTION COMMITTEES

The Convention Committees will meet on the Friday of Department Convention at 1:00 p.m., except the Convention Place Committee, which meets on Saturday at 4:00 p.m. Each District must assign one representative to each of the Convention Committees. This assignment must be made at the District Spring Conference and reported to the Department immediately following your Spring Conference.

DEPARTMENT COLOR GUARD COMPETITION

The Department Color Guard Contest will be held on Saturday at the Department Convention. Rules and entry forms are available on the information table, on the Department website, or by request from Department. Each entry form must be certified by the Adjutant of the unit's sponsoring Post or District. The contest entry form must be submitted to the Department before the close of the Color Guard Registration Meeting at Department Convention. Advance registration is encouraged and may be submitted to: The American Legion of Iowa, Color Guard Competition, 720 Lyon Street, Des Moines, IA 50309. Order of appearance in the contest will be in reverse order of receipt of entry form with earliest postmark.

The American Legion Department Color Guard Contest does not limit the number of units allowed to compete in the Contest from any Post, Unit or Squadron. All color guard members will be required to register for the Department Convention as a delegate, alternate or guest with The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, or Sons of The American Legion.

The contest has two competition classes, Military Open Class and Advancing/Retiring of Colors Class.

Military Open Class - All units must be members of The American Legion and/or Legion Family (i.e. Sons of The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, or American Legion mixed participants). If competing for the Commander's Color Guard, all unit members competing in this class must meet all the requirements for full American Legion membership and be over 18 years of age. The unit must be composed of seven (7) members or less including the Commanding Officer.

Advancing/Retiring of Colors Class - All units must be members of The American Legion and/or Legion Family (i.e. Sons of The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, or American Legion mixed participants). The unit must be composed of not less than four (4) members. If the color guard consists of only four (4) members, the American Flag bearer will give all color guard commands.

To be considered for the official Department Commander's Champion Color Guard of The American Legion, those units consisting of full Legion members must have competed in Military Open Class.

NATIONAL CONVENTION – AUGUST 24-30, 2018 – Minneapolis, MN

Delegates and Alternates to the National Convention will be elected at the Spring District Conference. If you are attending the National Convention as a Delegate or Alternate, please pick up a registration packet from the District Commander or the District Adjutant. The packet contains instructions, information, and registration forms. Electronic forms are also available on the Department website at www.ialegion.org/national_convention.htm. Deadline for National Convention registration is June 15.

Those not elected as Delegates or Alternates can attend the National Convention as a Guest. To receive a registration packet, contact Department Headquarters or use the forms available on our website at www.ialegion.org/national_convention.

The Department of Iowa will be housed in the Hyatt Regency Minneapolis. The room rate with taxes and fees is \$152.02 per night for up to two occupants. Valet Parking is \$38.00/day and self-parking is \$24.00/day (subject to change). There is a \$20.00 + tax charge for each additional occupant, with a maximum occupancy of four.

The Iowa Party will be held at the Richfield American Legion Post 435. Tickets are \$25.00 each and include a buffet meal and entertainment. Tickets must be ordered in advance.

Entertainment for the National Commander's Banquet will be provided by Three Dog Night. Tickets are \$48.00 and must be purchased in advance.

IOWA WALK FOR VETERANS

Department Commander Mike Etzel will lead American Legion family members and friends in an Awareness Walk for Veterans. The purpose of the walk is to raise public attention for important issues facing veterans and their families. We also want to raise awareness for The American Legion and our programs. Proceeds from Walk for Veterans will help support The American Legion, Department of Iowa, Service Office.

The American Legion Walk for Veterans will be at the Veterans Parade at the Iowa State Fair on August 13, 2018, at the Iowa State Fairgrounds. The parade begins at 11:00 am and participants are asked to be in the staging area before 10:00 am.

All participants must pre-register and must wear The American Legion Walk for Veterans shirt. Shirts purchased from previous year may be worn. The registration fee is \$10.00 for all participants. The cost for a Walk for

Veterans shirt & pin is \$10.00. All parade participants will receive free entry into the Iowa State Fair. State Fair parking is not included. Registration deadline is July 17, 2018.

NATIONAL LEGION COLLEGE

National Legion College will be held October 28-November 2, 2018. The Department of Iowa is currently seeking two candidates. The application is available on the information table. You may also obtain an application from our website at www.ialeion.org or by request from Department headquarters.

Candidates must have military service after 1982 and have completed The American Legion Extension Institute. Applications for Legion College are due to Department Headquarters before July 1.

THE AMERICAN LEGION BASIC TRAINING

The American Legion's official training program for officers, members, Legion College applicants and those who simply want to expand their knowledge of the nation's largest veterans service organization is now available online.

Already taken the old course? The American Legion Extension Institute has been rewritten, updated, streamlined and enhanced with videos, digital photos, clickable links, a historical timeline and additional features. The program should take less than two hours to complete. It is divided into six sections, with a quiz at the end of each one, followed by a final exam.

Visit <https://www.legion.org/alei> for more information and to begin the course

VAL LIKENS SERVICE OFFICER AWARD

Minela Tarpley of the Dallas County Veterans Affairs Office, was selected to receive the 2018 Val Likens Distinguished Post Service Officer Award. She will be invited to attend the Department Convention in Des Moines to accept her award.

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION AWARDS

The National Veterans Employment & Education Commission annually presents several awards to honor employers who hire veterans, disabled veterans and older workers. Those who help veterans find employment are also recognized.

The awards include:

- Employer of the Year - Small Business, Mid-Sized Business and Large Business
- Employer of the Disabled Award
- Employer of Older Workers Award
- Local Veterans Employment Representative of the Year
- Outstanding Disabled Veteran Outreach Program Specialist of the Year
- Outstanding Employment Service Office of the Year

Nomination forms for each award are available through Department Headquarters. All entries must be accompanied by an official nomination form with no more than two pages of narrative, along with supporting documents.

The deadline for submittals to the Department Veterans Benefits Committee is October 15. It is important that the Post nominations are submitted by this time to ensure that they are considered for the Department Awards

to be delivered at the 2019 Department Convention. The Department selects one nominee in each category as its winner and submits the winners for the National awards.

Forms and criteria are available on our website at www.ialegion.org, or by request from Department Headquarters.

CONSOLIDATED POST REPORTS

The Consolidated Post Reports (CPR) are mailed to each Post Adjutant on record. The Consolidated Post Report must be returned on the correct annual form to Department Headquarters, or submitted through myLegion.org, before June 15. Consolidated Post Reports are used to determine the Department Americanism award winners, Children & Youth award winners and the Department Community Service awards.

LEGIONNAIRE OF THE YEAR

The Art McLaughlin Legionnaire of the Year nomination form is available online at www.ialegion.org, or by request from Department Headquarters at (800) 365-8387. There is no limitation on the number of applicants for each District. Nomination forms must be submitted to Department Headquarters before June 15.

AMERICAN LEGION OF IOWA ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

The American Legion, Department of Iowa, has an electronic newsletter. The newsletter is produced twice per month, with special editions when necessary. Subscribe today to get the latest information from the Department delivered right to your email. A link to sign up can be found on our home page at www.ialegion.org.

AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL

All registered Senior Legion teams will be invited to attend the Department Championships, scheduled July 30 – August 3, 2018, in Cedar Rapids. Teams, by District, include:

First District	Xavier
Second District:	Dubuque County, Marion, Hiawatha, Kennedy, Linn Mar, Mt. Vernon and Toddville
Third District:	<i>no teams</i>
Fourth District:	<i>no teams</i>
Fifth District:	Ottumwa
Sixth District:	Ames, Johnston and Gilbert
Eighth District:	Carroll County
Ninth District:	Woodbury County and Iowa Lake

BOYS STATE

American Legion Hawkeye Boys State, Iowa's Premiere Civic Education Program, will be held June 10 – 15, 2018, at Camp Dodge. Delegates must check-in before 12:00 pm (noon) on Sunday, June 10, at the pool house.

Legionnaires and guests are invited to attend Legionnaire's Day on Tuesday, June 12 at 1:00 pm and the final assembly on Friday, June 15 at 11:45 am. Legionnaire's Day includes a tour of the Camp Dodge facilities used during Boys State. The final assembly includes the announcements of scholarship winners and the Boys Nation Senators.

We currently have 304 reservations from Posts. Updates are available from your District Boys State Chairman.

Make sure your delegates attend a District Orientation and are aware of any transportation arrangements your District or Post may be making. Keep in close contact with your Boys State Delegates and your District Boys State Chairman.

ORATORICAL CONTEST

The American Legion of Iowa's Oratorical Finals were conducted on Sunday, February 11, at Mid-Winter Conference. Patrick Junker of Van Meter Post #403 in Sixth District will now advance to the National Oratorical Contest, April 13-15 in Indianapolis. The competition will be live-streamed at www.legion.org. Patrick receives a \$2,000 scholarship from The American Legion of Iowa and American Legion of Iowa Foundation.

Runner up, Lauren Macke, receives a \$1,500 scholarship. Lauren was sponsored by Dewitt-Loustaunau Post #20 of Dedham in Eighth District. Third place and a \$1,000 scholarship was awarded to Ethan Lowder, sponsored by Hiawatha Post #735 in Second District.

SCOUTING

Many applications were received for the Eagle Scout of the Year. First Place winner of a \$2,000 scholarship goes to Seth Breyfogle of Gilbert. His nomination has been forwarded for consideration at the national level, where he is eligible for an additional \$10,000 scholarship. Runner up is Trevor Thornburgh of New Virginia, and third place goes to Ethan Ekstrom of Davenport.

The Adult Cub Scouter Award goes to Rebecca S. Gimzo of Clemons, nominated by Post #681, in Third District. The Adult Boy Scouter Award goes to Judy Westemeier of Dyersville, nominated by Post #137, in Second District.

FIFTH GRADE FLAG ESSAY CONTEST

The Fifth-Grade Flag Essay Contest winners were judged by the Department Children and Youth Committee. First place was awarded to Cabe Warwick, sponsored by PMCKS American Legion Post #391 in Carlisle of the Sixth District. He is the son of Mike and Jeni Warwick, and attends Carlisle Elementary School. Second place went to Lauren Eslick, sponsored by Peterson American Legion Post #431 in Gowrie of the Eighth District. She is the daughter of Brad and Mary Eslick and attends Southeast Valley Elementary School. Third place honors go to Peyton Bose, sponsored by Pump-Schiers American Legion Post #342 in Jesup of the Fourth District. She is the daughter of Steve and Kelly Bose, and attends Jesup Elementary School.

The top three winners will be invited to attend the 2018 Department Convention in July, and asked to read their winning essays to the Legionnaires in attendance.

JUNIOR SHOOTING SPORTS

The Department Championship, a 3-Position Air Rifle competition, was held Saturday, March 24, at Camp Dodge. There were 17 registered shooters this year, representing four shooting clubs from Lake Park, Swisher, Lone Tree and Muscatine.

The top three overall shooters will receive scholarships from The American Legion of Iowa and The American Legion of Iowa Foundation. First place overall went to Abbigail Westfall (Mumm's Jr. Rifles – Lone Tree), who will be awarded a \$1,000 Scholarship. The runner up, Emily Annis (Swisher Sharpshooters – Swisher), will be awarded a \$500 scholarship, and third place, Katelyn Maldonado (Mumm's Jr. Rifles – Lone Tree), will be awarded a \$250 scholarship. The Overall Team Trophy went to Mumm's Jr. Rifles (Lone Tree), second place

honors went to Swisher Sharpshooters (Swisher), and third place honors to Kerschenske Club (Muscatine). Age Category 1 (17-18-year-old) did not have any competitors this year. Age Category 2 (15-16-year-old) winners were: Abigail Westfall (Mumm's Jr. Rifles – Lone Tree), Sophie Crook (Kerschenske Club – Muscatine), and Lauren Bell (Mumm's Jr. Rifles – Lone Tree). Age Category 3 (under 15 years old) winners were: Emily Annis (Swisher Sharpshooters – Swisher), Katelyn Maldonado (Mumm's Jr. Rifles – Lone Tree), and Hailey McRae (Swisher Sharpshooters – Swisher). A complete list of competitors, teams and scores will be made available on the Department Website at www.ialegion.org.

RESOLUTIONS

If you have an idea which will improve The American Legion at any level, put that idea into words, in the form of a resolution. When considering resolutions, keep in mind that any proposal transmitted beyond your Post and within the organization of the Legion must be “germane”—that is, closely related to the purpose for which The American Legion exists.

If your Post seeks to be a leader in the policies and practices of The American Legion, it can do so only through the resolution process. Every American Legion Post is encouraged to submit resolutions for consideration at our annual Department Convention. All resolutions to be considered at the Department Convention must be submitted to Department headquarters fourteen (14) days prior to the Convention.

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

With the severe weather season upon us, posts should be prepared to respond to disasters in your area. National Emergency Fund and Temporary Financial Assistance applications are available from Department. Posts are encouraged to meet with their local civic leaders to have a plan in case of natural disasters.

MYLEGION.ORG

The Post version of MyLegion.org is a website portal designed to be used as a membership and communication tool for the Post. Posts can generate rosters, submit Consolidated Post Reports, perform Member Data Form changes, publish Post newsletters and calendars, find potential members by accessing lists of expired members and members acquired through the Direct Membership Solicitation (DMS) program in their area, look up members who have renewed online, and access manuals and brochures. For a demonstration of MyLegion.org, visit the website at www.myLegion.org.

COMMISSION AND COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Each year, the District Commanders and the Department Commander are tasked with making appointments to Commissions and Committees of The American Legion of Iowa. If you are interested in serving on a District or Department Commission or Committee, please contact your incoming District Commander, the candidates for Department Commander, your District Liaison members, or Department Headquarters. Nomination Forms and Endorsement Forms are available on our website or by request from Department Headquarters. Your participation on Committees and Commissions help shape the policies and programs of The American Legion of Iowa.

NATIONAL EMERGENCY FUND (NEF)

The National Emergency Fund stands ready to assist our members when natural disasters strike. To qualify for an NEF grant, the veteran must be a member in good standing at the time of the disaster, and it must be a county, state or federal declared disaster. Grants are available up to \$3,000 for members and up to \$10,000 for

Posts. Applications must be received at the Department within 90 days of the disaster. Applications are available for download on the web at www.ialegion.org or by calling Department Headquarters. Should a declared disaster occur in your area, please contact Department Headquarters and we will help your Post set up to be a disaster information center for your community.

LEGIONCARE NO COST AD&D INSURANCE

Anyone who enrolls in LegionCare after 1/1/2015 will be covered for life if they remain a member of The Legion Family. All adult "Legion Family" members – Legion, Auxiliary and SAL – are eligible for the coverage.

Every eligible "Legion Family" member may enroll, but the member must sign-up to be covered. LegionCare provides up to \$1,000 of 24-hour/day accidental death coverage to an enrolled member. And if an enrolled member suffers a covered loss while performing "official Legion Family business", there is an additional \$4,000 benefit --bringing the total to up to \$5,000.

Go online to www.TheLIT.com and fill in the requested information. By enrolling on-line, your coverage will begin immediately and you will get an e-mail confirmation within minutes. Those without access to the internet may enroll by calling the LIT's toll-free number at (800) 235-6943.

LEGACY SCHOLARSHIP RUN

The American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund was created to help ensure children who have lost a parent at war receive the education they need and deserve. The Legion Riders are among the fund's biggest donators, creating the annual Legacy Run in 2006.

The American Legion Legacy Run begins August 18 on the journey to the American Legion National Convention in Minneapolis, MN. For more information on the Legacy Run, go to www.legion.org.

IRS REQUIREMENTS

Federal Regulations require every American Legion Post to file an annual information return, Form 990, with the IRS. The 990 must be filed by the 15th day of the 5th month after the end of the Post's annual accounting period.

Additionally, every enterprise with an Employer Identification Number (EIN), including all American Legion posts, must have a Form 8822-B on file. The form is used to report the name of the RESPONSIBLE PARTY for filing the annual 990 on behalf of the post. The form must be completed within 60 days of whenever your Responsible Party changes. The form is available on-line at www.irs.gov.

FLAG REWARDS PROGRAM

Your post can receive a 10¢ credit for each dollar spent on the purchase of American Flags from Emblem Sales. This includes purchases made by your post, as well as by members, friends, neighbors, schools & businesses that choose to sponsor your post, and buy their flags from The American Legion.

Your post will earn 1 Point (worth 10¢) for every dollar your post or your sponsors spend on American Flags from Emblem Sales (excluding taxes & shipping). Posts can earn points by asking potential sponsors to purchase their flags from American Legion Emblem Sales or the post can buy & re-sell flags. If a sponsor purchases an American Flag from Emblem Sales, they will need to request that their purchase benefit their local post, and indicate the Post #. Once a sponsor chooses a local post, all future purchases will automatically benefit that post. The Sponsor can contact Emblem Sales and request changes at any time.

To enroll, your Post Adjutant must fill out an enrollment form and mail or fax it to Emblem Sales or complete the form online. Posts can purchase with points anything available from Emblem Sales (awards, uniforms, shirts, caps, pins, coins, patches, flags, baseballs, etc.). Points earned for the calendar year will be credited to your post account once a year, by February 1 of the following year. For more information, visit <http://emblem.legion.org> or call 888-453-4466.

EVERY DEPARTMENT HAS A STORY PLACEMATS

The American Legion's 100th Anniversary Observance Committee recognizes that every post, district, and department has a unique story. Thus, the committee is working toward telling just a portion of that story for every Department in the form of a placemat. One will be done for each Department leading up to the 100th Anniversary, and Iowa's is now complete. The placemat is not intended to tell a complete history of the Department, but rather to provide interesting and entertaining snapshots of our history.

The Department office can print 11"x17" copies in black & white for \$0.10 each and color for \$0.20 each. The post is responsible for all shipping costs. An electronic version is also available for those who wish to have them printed locally.

DEPARTMENT CONTACT INFORMATION

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