

## Fourth District

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report. This report is very important as it is used to determine Department Americanism and Community Service award winners and it is used for The American Legion's annual report to the United States Congress. Let's have 100 percent Post participation from the Fourth District.

I had the pleasure of representing the Fourth District at the annual Independence Mental Health Institute Volunteer Recognition program. The District received a Certificate of Appreciation for everything the Posts in the District have done for the Mental Health Institute in Independence from volunteering time to donating money for various projects. Thanks to all who have volunteered and donated to this worthy cause.

For God and Country! Semper Fi!

## Fifth District

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there is anything that you can do to help.

Boys and Girls State orientation for the Fifth District will be on May 18, in Monroe, at Post #363, 105 E. Merian St., starting at 2 p.m. If you are sending a representative to Boys and/or Girls State, please insure they be there for this informative meeting.

Please feel free to call me, 641-482-3385, or e-mail me, either through the Legion's site or [willow@partnercom.net](mailto:willow@partnercom.net) and I will see what I can do.

## Sixth District

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Some are looking for a way to recapture some of the comraderie that they had while in the military. Others like associating with other war era vets and swapping war/sea stories. Still others like belonging to a members-only club.

Which theory is the right one? I would say that neither is absolutely correct, but that together they are both correct. That is to say that if we work a variety of programs and work them well, people will want to belong to the organization that is running the program so that they can help. We also need to actively work at retaining our existing membership while developing strategies to bring in new members and keep them active. I feel that if we lean too far either way, we will drive more people away than we attract. If all we do is constantly quote goals and targets, we leave people with the feeling that all we are interested in is the membership dues and nothing else. However, if all we do is work our programs and never ask anyone new to join and be a part of this wonderful organization, we risk not having the membership to sustain the programs.

So what started as two separate theories can in fact be combined into a single theory that could say simply, we need to work our programs to attract membership and at the same time we need to work membership to support our programs both of which will ultimately further the goals and ideals of The American Legion.

## Seventh District

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give him your support when he contacts you to serve in any of the many positions at the District level.

If you are interested in serving at the District level, please let John or I know. Department Convention is just around the corner in Waterloo on July 11-13, with the National Convention in Phoenix on August 22-28. We need delegates to attend as it is especially important this year to help elect our own Dave Rehbein of Ames, as our National Commander. Contact myself or John Schildberg, if you are planning or would like to attend. Many Posts continue to honor our veterans with military rites, but I would especially like to thank the Legionnaires of Post #2 in Council Bluffs, who have provided military rites for as many as 30 of our comrades in a 15-day period. Those Legionnaires are Robert Green, Roger Hemmingsen, Frank Hickey, Barry Horner, Leo Cash, Bill Behm, Marvin Wacker, Rich Hoff, Alan Smith, Neil Williams, Dan Costello, Brenda Jacobs, Bernie Howe, Bill Koenig, Robert Hill, Richard White, Dale Strohbehm, and Tasker Falkenhainer. Thank you for honoring our veterans and their families for their service.

## Ninth District

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County Fairgrounds in Le Mars.

May is the month when we remember our Mothers on May 11. We also honor and remember those who paid the ultimate price for our freedom and future freedoms, on Memorial Day, May 26. Posts, prepare to have a Memorial Day Program to honor these veterans.

Consolidated Post Reports have been mailed to all Post Adjutants. This is an important report to let our elected officials in Washington, D.C. know how much unselfish work we do for our fellow veterans. Adjutants please make out this report and send it to Department.

Department Convention, Waterloo, July 11-13; Department Leadership School, May 31 to June 1, at Des Moines, registration before May 2; and National Convention, Phoenix, August 22-28, registration before June 15th. If you would like to attend the school or the National Convention, contact us before the registration dates.



## Sons of The American Legion

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conference, and I had a great time. I've also attended seven of the nine District Spring Conferences. There was a Detachment Officer at the other two. Life gets no better than spending time with The American Legion family.

Detachment Spring Conference Squadron Calls were sent out to the Adjutants that we had mailing

information for. This article will be the only way about 20 Squadrons have to find out about it. It will be hosted by the Coralville Squadron at the Post home, located at 902 2<sup>nd</sup> St. on May 10. Lunch is at 12 p.m., with the meeting to follow at 1 p.m. I wonder where these 20 Squadrons will want Membership cards sent later on? Items to be brought up include the budget for 2008-09, delegates for National Convention, along with other topics.

Consolidated Squadron Report forms will be passed out at Spring Conference, mailed to those who can't make it. I don't know how many times at Mid-Winter, someone came up to me to tell me about all the great things that the Sons of The American Legion were doing for the Post, and or the community, but no one from the Squadron was at the meeting, or sent a Squadron report. People, this is where our obligation to the veterans comes in. What we do out here in the "world" makes a difference. These reports give the National Commander the clout to persuade Congress to do the right thing. It doesn't make any difference how much was done throughout the year, it is more important that everything that was done, is known. When your activities are consolidated with all the other Squadrons in the Nation, it adds up to big things. Our Adjutant doesn't want them filled out until July 1, so that everything gets reported, but needs them by July 15, so he has time to make out the National report. Please use this year's form, as they change each year.

Our Mid-Winter guests stated they expect 100 percent reporting from Central Region - we just as well start now. The reports take just a few minutes to fill out. If you have any problems or questions about these reports, or anything else, e-mail me at [rjr@palmerone.com](mailto:rjr@palmerone.com) or call 712-359-2430. You may also contact any of the Officers - we'll be glad to help, and all are listed on the Iowa SAL website.

Another very important Officer of this Detachment, who gets all too often overlooked, is our Historian. Without your help his job is almost impossible - to make the Detachment's History Book. **PLEASE** send him pictures, newsclippings, or anything that your Squadron is involved in, and make sure to explain the basics of who, what, when and where. All those things can be sent to Ken Rochholz, 4481-240<sup>th</sup> St., Walcott, 52773; or e-mail to [udderlyperfect11@msn.com](mailto:udderlyperfect11@msn.com).

An idea brought up at Mid-Winter (by Eighth District Commander Ed Heisterkamp), suggested it might be fun to have a little Color Guard contest amongst ourselves in the parade at Department Convention. The winner would take home a traveling trophy, and bragging rights, for a year. We could sure use your input on this idea.

The last order of business comes from our National Commander, Ray Giehll, who asked that I remind you of National Veterans Assistance Day, on May 17. That's the day he wants **all** SAL members to make an extra effort to help a veteran in your community.

One more thing to put on your calendar is Convention at Waterloo, July 12. The meeting traditionally starts at 9 a.m., but check the website, and the June issue of the Iowa Legionnaire, to be sure. These meetings give us the knowledge to carry on . . . For God and Country.

<http://ialegion.org/sal/>

