



THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF IOWA IOWA LEGIONNAIRE & Auxiliary Communiqué

An Official Publication of The American Legion, Department of Iowa: December 2019



National Commander Bill Oxford

by The American Legion
www.legion.org/commander

James W. "Bill" Oxford was elected national commander of The American Legion on Aug. 29, 2019, in Indianapolis, during the organization's 101st national convention. He has been a member of the nation's largest veterans organization since 1986.

A native of Lenoir, N.C., Oxford is a paid-up-for-life member and past commander of Post 29 in Lenoir. He served as department (state) commander of the North Carolina American Legion from 2010 to 2011. A veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps, Oxford was an aviation electronic technician for the A-6 Intruder and served in Vietnam during his initial enlistment. After being discharged as a sergeant in 1970, Oxford joined the North Carolina National Guard. He subsequently attended officer's candidate school and transferred to the U.S. Army Reserve, where he ultimately retired as a colonel after more than 34 years of military service.

Oxford has served at every level of The American Legion. A former mayor and city council of Cahj's Mountain,

N.C., he has worked since he was a high school student, with most of his career choices being in the maintenance and engineering field. He earned a bachelor's degree in environmental studies and multiple safety and environmental certificates.

Oxford has volunteered as a coach, umpire, referee and administrator in several youth athletic programs, including service as the public address announcer for the Post 29 American Legion Baseball team.

An active volunteer with several organizations, Oxford is a member of Masonic Lodge-York Scottish Rite and the North Carolina Army Retirees Council. His theme as national commander of The American Legion is "A Foundation for the Future," as the organization enters its second century of service.

Oxford and his wife, Frances, have been married since 1967. They have a son, Charles (married to Deah Reid), and a daughter, Jackie (married to Mike Carr). They also have four grandsons, Isiah, Micah, Jaggar and Dawson.

The National Commander's Iowa Tour: March 15-20, 2020
Details will be available online at a later date

Cross-Country Bike Ride

By Larry Ritland
Post #307 - Roland, IA

I Just want to follow up with a quick summary of my bicycle adventure across the United States this summer. As you may know I am a 71-year old Vietnam Vet, 37-year member of Post 307, Roland, Iowa. Route: Departed Ocean Shores, Washington June 6, arrived in Washington, DC August 18; 73 days, 3,620 miles. Across Iowa I joined my RAGBRAI group for that portion, my fifth time. My amazing support team of one, Kay my wife, did an awesome job.

The trip provided many highlights across the country. Though not many Legion Posts responded to a request to host me for the night in their community, those who did were very enthusiastic. Several provided a night in



a nice bed & breakfast or a quality Ma & Pa motel in their town, the following went a little above and beyond. Ritzville, WA, lodging & meals; Helena, MT, lodging on post at Ft. Harrison, private tour of Montana Military Museum (provided by

nephew of a Doolittle Raider); Lincoln, MT, host home, meals and \$50 donation; Forsyth, MT, morning send off by Post Honor Guard & \$25 donation; Alliance, NE, Police and Legion Riders escort into town, meet & greet, lodging, meals and Post 7 honored me with a Quilt of Valor; Brewster, NE, booked two nights at Uncle Bucks Lodge, Walt & Marilyn Rhoades owners, provided all meals, at checkout they were so impressed with what I was doing they would not accept a dime; Genoa, NE, lodging & meals; Atlanta, IL, lodging & meals, \$100 donation;

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*Merry Christmas,
Happy New Year &
Happy Holidays!*

*From
The American Legion of Iowa
Family*

Mid-Winter Conference Reserve Your Hotel Room Now

Holiday Inn Des Moines - Airport &
Conference Center
6111 Fleur Drive
Des Moines, IA 50321
515-287-2400

Ask for The American Legion rate!

Mid-Winter Schedule

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NONPROFIT ORG.
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DEADLINES & DATES

December 6
Department HQ Christmas Open House
Des Moines 3 PM - 6 PM
December 14
Boys State Board Meeting - Dept. HQ
December 25
Christmas
Dept. Offices Closed Dec. 24-26
December 31
Boys State Early Bird Reservations Due
JSSP Affiliation Forms Due
January 1, 2020
New Years Day - Dept. Offices Closed
Boys State Fee increases to \$300
Baseball Team Registrations Open Online
January 2
Flag Essay Entries due to District Chair
January 8
Iowa Commission of Veteran Affairs
Camp Dodge - Johnston
January 15
Spring District Conference Forms Due
Boys State Delegate Registrations Open
January 20
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Dept. Offices Closed
January 22
Flag Essay Finalists Due to Dept. Chair
Legislative Day - State Capitol
February 14-16
Dept. Mid-Winter Conference
Airport Holiday Inn - Des Moines
February 15
Legionnaire & Communiqué Articles Due
February 17
President's Day - Dept. Offices Closed
February 28
Baseball Registration Fees Due to National
March 1
Eagle Scout of the Year Scholarship Due
JSSP Registrations Due
March 7-11
Washington Conference - Washington, DC
March 14
JSSP Dept. Match - Camp Dodge
March 15-17
American Legion Birthday



We're on Facebook!
@iowalegion

THE AMERICAN LEGION

1919 100 Years 2019

VETERANS STILL SERVING AMERICA

The American Legion, Department of Iowa

720 Lyon St., Des Moines, Iowa 50309
www.ialegion.org
800-365-8387 • 515-282-5068 • 515-282-7583 (fax)

American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Iowa

www.iowaala.org
515-282-7987 • 515-282-7583 (fax)

Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Iowa

www.ialegion.org/sal
800-365-8387 • 515-282-5068 • 515-282-7583 (fax)

2019-2020 American Legion Department Officers

Commander
James Kessler Lake Park commander@ialegion.org

Vice Commanders

Bob Waugh Libertyville bobwaugh89@gmail.com
Bob Onken Osage jbelect@osage.net
Dick Hogan Cedar Rapids dehogan@earthlink.net
Stan Merrell Norwalk srmerrell1@gmail.com
Joe Jardon Shenandoah jmjardon2747@gmail.com

Adjutant

John A. Derner Granger john@ialegion.org

Service Officer

Scott Zach Des Moines scott.zach@va.gov

Finance Officer

Ken Danilson Woodward kendanilson@gmail.com

Judge Advocate

Dwight Dinkla Panora ddinkla@iowabar.org

Historian

Stan Elliott Nevada sdejae@gmail.com

Chaplain

James Fenceroy Sioux City jamesfenceroy@msn.com

Sergeant-At-Arms

David Honse Rock Valley dhonse2000@yahoo.com

National Executive Committeeman

Jerry Sebben Waukee nec@ialegion.org

Alternate National Executive Committeeman

Dennis Soppe West Union anec@ialegion.org

Past Department Commanders

Ken Rochholz Walcott rocky02288@msn.com
Mike Etzel Marion dimikey@hotmail.com
J. Scott Moline Urbandale smoline@purdueglobal.edu

2019-2020 District Commanders

1st Steve Colcord West Branch
563-241-8445 firstdistrict@ialegion.org
2nd Roger Norfolk Cedar Rapids
319-651-0977 seconddistrict@ialegion.org
3rd Dan Huntley Eldora
319-529-1115 thirddistrict@ialegion.org
4th Dan Boberg Fayette
563-419-0459 fourthdistrict@ialegion.org
5th Randy Johnson Deep River
641-510-2425 fifthdistrict@ialegion.org
6th Pat Phillips Ames
515-290-2991 sixthdistrict@ialegion.org
7th Brett Martin Council Bluffs
228-304-2876 seventhdistrict@ialegion.org
8th Tom Ryan Wesley
515-341-7926 eighthdistrict@ialegion.org
9th Cliff Ripke Hartley
712-348-5047 ninthdistrict@ialegion.org

Department Service Office

561 Federal Building, 210 Walnut St.
Des Moines, Iowa 50309
800-944-2039 • 515-323-7532 • 515-323-7401 (fax)

Claims Representatives

Alan Horn Michele Lammers
Melissa Kauzlarich Shane Pankonen

Department Headquarters Staff Directory

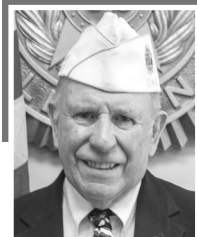
Adjutant John Derner john@ialegion.org
Exec Sec./Membership Marcia Hoch marcia@ialegion.org
Programs Director Ryan Kowlessar ryan@ialegion.org
Business Manager Brenda Parrish brenda@ialegion.org
General Information info@ialegion.org

Auxiliary Department Staff Directory

Executive Director
Crystal Wright alasectreas@ialegion.org
Membership
Jeannie McKeever alamembership@ialegion.org
Interim Accounting
Ann Rehbein alaaccounting@ialegion.org

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Department Commander
James Kessler

Onward
and Upward
is the motto



and word. As your Department Commander, I bring to you Seasons greetings from your Department and Service Office staff. Your Department Commander's year is off to a great start!!! May that trend continue. I look forward to every post, county, and district invitations. Those invites are exciting as well as important to your Department Commander. The district conferences I have been able to attend were great. The hospitality and greetings given to your Commander were awesome and appreciated. The post and county invitations have been a joy and privilege to attend along with addressing those Legion family members in attendance.

Most recently I was asked to speak to a Girl Scout group involving junior through cadet age groups and parents. Another Legionnaire and I from American Legion Post #371 talked to the girls on the meaning and importance of the greatest flag in the world. We emphasized that no other nation's FLAG is sought out to be lived under. Commander Perry of Post #23 spoke to the girls as well.

After speaking to the group, we demonstrated the proper handling of the flag and the proper way of folding the flag. Department Commander Kessler's wife read the meaning of each fold as each fold was done. As always the reward for me is to see the willingness and eagerness those young girls demonstrated in listening, observing with each girl being unique in her own way. Each girl who folded the flag, eagerly took the flag cradling it in their arms next to their body like you would a baby. They held in their possession a very important piece of their life. To see the excitement on each face was infallible.

During my talk I spoke of the number of other nationalities who each day strive to come to America, to live the American dream. After the program ended a father of one of the girls came up to me and said his wife just received her citizenship this past March, she is from Argentina. As I was speaking to the group, I notice her smile, actions, and acknowledgment of what was being spoken about those wanting to come to America. She told me her dream and her desire to earn and receive her citizenship in America. In our talk, she shared the year her father received his citizenship. Then proudly mother and father spoke of their daughter who is in Girl Scouts getting The Presidential Volunteer Award. What an awesome Sunday afternoon for your Commander and for all Legionnaires and veterans who served in our country's uniform. Along that line when I went on the honor flight to Washington D.C., a high school football player of another nationality thanked the veterans for his opportunity to live in America and play the game.

Today as I sit in my hotel room writing this article, I look out the window to observe all that has been created for all of us to enjoy. In my viewing, I witness a vast picture of opportunity for people to enjoy and take advantage of all that waiting for us. Which brings me to the thought of the passing of The Legion Act. What endless opportunity we have also to enlarge our American Legion Family. With that membership tool available to us, let each American Legion Family member reach out and ask those who qualify to join our American Legion Family.

The week of November 18th through the 22nd is our scheduled N.V.C. Membership Tour, with turn in at the Van Meter American Legion Post on November 23rd. This a combined membership tour involving the



Department Adjutant
John A. Derner

In October, I had the honor of being elected the 90th King of Ye Steivos, the association of Department

Adjutants. As impressive as that sounds, becoming king has only one requirement. You must be the longest serving department adjutant who has not yet been king. Even though the qualification requirements are not all that impressive, I do consider it an honor. As of October 1, I have been your Department Adjutant for seventeen years. And that has truly been an honor for me.

That longevity is only possible with the support of others. For me, that support begins at home – with my three young sons, Michael, Matthew and Andrew, and especially with my wife Robyn. I can never thank her enough for her encouragement, her assistance, her patience, and her love. She has been with me every step of the way and I could not have done it without her support.

That support also comes from my American Legion Family in the Department of Iowa - our posts, counties, districts and the department – to include the American Legion Auxiliary, the Sons of The American Legion, and the American Legion Riders.

I have been blessed over the years with several mentors, beginning with my dad on the post level and continuing throughout my involvement with The American Legion. There are too many to mention, but I would like to recognize three of the most influential.

My predecessor, Jim Demarest, served the Department of Iowa as Adjutant for 13 years and for 3 years prior to that as Adjutant of New Jersey and is a past Ye King. I admire Jim because he never told me how I should do things. Instead, he told me how he did things and why he did them. He not only knew I would do things differently but encouraged me to make changes – to make the position my own by doing it my way. He has always been available for questions and I am grateful for his guidance and his example.

The other two I would like to recognize are Past National Commander Dave Rehbein, and past National Finance Chairman and Department Finance Officer Ken Danilson. These two men set the example for leadership in The American Legion.

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IRS Reminder

Under the 2006 Pension Protection Act (PPA), a non-church exempt organization's failure to file IRS Form 990 for three consecutive years will result in the revocation of the organization's exempt status. Under the IRS regulations, all Posts are required to file an IRS Form 990 every year. Forms must be filed by the 15th day of the 5th month after the end of the Post's annual accounting period. For more information, visit the IRS website at www.irs.gov. You may also get more information by contacting your tax professional.

American Legion Family. Hope to see you all there.

On the updated listing from National Headquarters, the Department of Iowa has 29 Legionnaires serving on commissions or committees, as well as National Auxiliary President Nicole Clapp, and National Vice Commander Bruce Feuerbach. Onward and Upward!

For God and Country,
Commander James B. Kessler



National Executive Committeeman Jerry Sebben

Greetings fellow legionnaires,
I want to thank all the District Commanders for their welcome and hospitality shown to Alternate NEC Dennis and I at your Fall Conferences this year.

The National Executive Committee passed resolution number one this last month. This resolution was an amendment to the preamble of The Constitution of the American Legion. This changes the wording from "the Great Wars" to "All Wars". The

purpose of this change is to recognize all the millions of United States military veterans from the many wars and conflicts that were not being currently recognized within the preamble. This change requires immediate action.

Prominent federal buildings and national war memorials will now fly the iconic POW/MIA flag alongside the American flag throughout the year with the signing legislation into law this last week. This legislation will help highlight the continued sacrifice of military families whose loved ones are still unaccounted for overseas. There is an estimated 82,000 individuals unaccounted for.

Recently many posts are calling on their members

wishing them a Happy Veterans Day, and checking up on them to offer assistance if any was needed. This program is called "Buddy Check". Please don't make this a one time call, our members need our continued support through-out the year.

I hope everyone was able to attend or be part of a Veterans Day observance. We as Veterans cannot do enough for our fellow Veterans, to recognize them for all of their sacrifice. The title Veteran is never given, only earned.

Mary and I want to wish all our American Legion Family a Happy Thanksgiving. Merry Christmas and a very prosperous New Year.

For God and Country



Dept. Service Officer Scott Zach

It is now December and 2019 is almost gone. With the year soon ending I wanted to point out some significant changes we've seen in 2019, and I'm sure as time moves on, we'll see some refinements to these programs and more changes as well. It was Salvador Dali, a Spanish artist and Surrealist icon - perhaps best known for his 1931 painting The Persistence of Memory, whose statement struck a chord with me, "Have no fear of perfection - you'll never reach it."

General James Mattis, in his book Call Sign Chaos states, "Our militaries have been fighting on this earth for ten thousand years, and it would be very idiotic and unethical for us to not take advantage of all these accumulated experiences by understanding our history." As history teaches us, the character for assisting the veteran adapts to new circumstances; the new Appeals Management Act (AMA), February 2019, Public Law 116-23 - Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019, Geo-Mapping, etc.

Some identified Blue Water Navy veterans are starting to receive a letter from the Department of Veterans Affairs out of Janesville, Wisconsin, titled You May Qualify for Disability Benefits. It's all about Public Law 116-23 (Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019) which takes effect January 1, 2020. To be entitled

these veterans must have served between January 9, 1962, and May 7, 1975, and have one or more of the conditions listed in Section 3.309 of Title 38, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). Additionally, the veteran must have served not more than 12-nautical miles seaward of a line commencing on the southwestern demarcation of the waters of Vietnam and Cambodia and intersecting with Latitude North and Longitude East coordinates as described in the law. The law also changes the presumption dates for those who served in or near the Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) from April 1, 1968-August 31, 1971 to read September 1, 1967 to August 31, 1971.

The law extends a presumption of herbicide exposure to Blue Water Navy veterans who served in the Republic of Vietnam and the offshore waters, and Blue Water Navy survivors and certain dependents may be entitled to benefits if the veteran was exposed. It also provides a potential earlier effective date for conditions that were previously denied service connection. If you think you qualify for an initial claim, you'll have to file a VA Form 21-526EZ; for initial Death Indemnity Claims (DIC) a VA Form 21-534EZ; and for previously denied claims you'll have to submit a VA Form 20-0995. Remember for Direct service connection (SC) it means that a disease or injury was incurred in service. This is accomplished by affirmatively showing inception during service. There are three components to proving direct SC. These are a current disability; an event, injury, or disease

in service; and a link or nexus establishing that the current disability had its onset or inception in service. Finally let me briefly mention GEO-Mapping which is relatively new. For those of you with appeals with the Board of Veterans Appeals (BVA) you might receive a letter from the VA assigning your case to a location more convenient for your travel than Des Moines, and it will also assign you to a different American Legion Office. Our office does not receive a copy of this letter, but it will become a part of the veteran's electronic file. When you receive this letter, and you want this office to represent you, it will be necessary for the veteran to call us to make those arrangements. We are not a fan of this program and are working to see what if anything can be done to turn this one around.

There is so much more material to read, web site links to visit, changes to the VA Home Loan program, etc., that everyone needs to get their hands on this information and begin to digest it and understand what is going on. Your reading assignment is to get into the material, study the pages of the CFR, and become functionally literate and competent to help our veterans.

This is what the Department Service Office is tasked in doing to help our Veterans every day. As you can tell, it is very time consuming and can be very frustrating but the reward to our Veterans is great. It is truly an honor to be an American Legion Service Officer and assist the American Legion in supporting our Veterans.



Sons of The American Legion Detachment Commander Mike Monserud

With Winter deciding to start early and the Fall DEC meeting in the books, we begin to look forward to the Mid-Winter Conference.

There has been some interesting conversation of a Resolution that was brought forward at the Fall NEC meeting in Indianapolis. It was to start excluding step-sons from the Sons of The American Legion. Our NEC, Ken Rochholz and every other NEC in the room voted down the Resolution. So, until you hear

different from myself or Department Headquarters, step-sons are still eligible to join.

At our Mid-Winter Conference in February, we will be joined by our National Commander, Clint Bolt, from the Detachment of Virginia. It is a good chance to come and see our Commander and ask questions that only he may have the answer to.

Starting in October the Detachment of Iowa is now able to process membership online from your Squadrons. Marcia Hoch, from Department Headquarters will hold a training session at Mid-Winter for individuals who want to learn the new process. It is a new step in the process that will speed things up and make membership more efficient.

We are also looking for individuals who would like to in the future hold a Detachment Office. If you come to meetings now and show interest in a position, we can start a mentor program that will help you learn the new position and what it all entails. We all at some point will not be in the leadership position we are now and will need someone to step up and fill our shoes. So, come on down and see for yourself if this is something you want to do.

So, I will see you at Mid-Winter. We will have some good training, fellowship, and our National Commander will be in attendance.

Commander Mike

SAL Electronic Transmittals

Sons of the American Legion Squadrons can now transmit membership electronically rather than mailing cards to HQ. For those squadrons that want to begin sooner and that were not present at the SAL Fall Conference, please contact Marcia at HQ for instructions: marcia@ialegion.org



We're Hiring: Service Office Claims Representative

The Department Service Office has an opening for a claims representative. This is a full time position working in the Department Service Office housed in the Federal building in Des Moines.

This is a very rewarding position for the right

individual. You will provide direct help to veterans and families with VA claims. Go to www.ialegion.org/jobs for the job description.

The application is available online. Completed applications and resumes should be sent to Department Service Officer by email at scott.zach@va.gov.

Scott can be reached at 515-323-7532 for more information.



1st District Commander Steve Colcord

Just another shout out to the best district #1, So far it has been anther great ride since I have been your District Commander. I am really pleased with the attendance that we had at our fall conference in Swisher. I also would like to thank the Swisher and Auxiliary for hosting the event as

they did an outstanding job. Now we can concentrate on Mid-Winter which is just around the corner. With membership, we are struggling but we have been in this situation before but we have conquered and moved into 1st place where we need to be. So to all posts in the 1st district let's start knocking on doors, using the buddy check, and the LEGION Act. At this time we have made our first goal by not having any goose eggs before Dept. Convention. We need to complete the last two goals and that is the flag essay, and the youth

having at least 1 finalist from each county.

I hope to see you all at the Mid-Winter Conference Feb. 13-15, 2020 at the Des Moines Airport Holiday Inn. This will be another way to learn more about the American Legion and have a fun weekend.

Wishing all of the 1st District a very safe Holiday Season.

For God and Country,
Steve Colcord



2nd District Commander Roger Norfolk

Fellow Legionnaires of the Second District;

The Second District is off to a great start for the year. Thank you all for your diligent work in membership. The weekly report shows that all the districts are working hard. The October 31st report shows us in 6th place. We were first on October 8. 2.2% separates us from first place. A good kind of race to

be in for our Great organization. So far only three 729 transfers s are shown for 2nd District. A great place to look for new members.

We are making progress determining the topics for our post level training in each zone. The Zone Vice Commanders will contact posts for what subjects they would like included. Once the topics are chosen, subject matter experts will put together classes that anyone can attend, even from other districts. We are all working towards the same goals.

Keep up with Buddy Checks. There are many of us that cannot get around easily. Think about how much it would mean to you if a fellow legionnaire came to

visit you if you could not get out.

Remember to publicize your good works. If you don't do it no one will. Much like Sabula who told me their Avenue of Flags is thought to be a VFW action by many in the community, not a Legion civic contribution. Christmas parties for children, food baskets for the needy, contributions to charities – all show what you do in the community. Don't let the public just not know.

For God and Country,
Roger Norfolk
– Second to None!



3rd District Commander Dan Huntley

Legionnaires-

For those who missed it, Fall Conference at the Iowa Veterans Home was fantastic! It hosted several special guests and tons of information. We sponsored BINGO for 97 residents, heard from the Commandant, and spoke with countless residents.

This Veterans Day, I had the privilege of being the Officer of the Day at the Eldora Veterans Day program, attended Hubbard's program, and was a guest alongside our Department Commander at Gladbrook's Veterans Day Potluck. I couldn't be more proud to be your Commander.

Have you ever thought about what are group of well-

organized Veterans can accomplish? I do almost daily. We are responsible for some incredible things from the VA Healthcare System, the "GI Bill", and generous support. In 1953 the US President, Vice President, four cabinet members, 6 Supreme Court Justices, 60 Senators, and 234 Congressmen were members of the American Legion. Today we have members in every industry and level of government from every walk of life.

For us to continue our mission to the community, state, and nation we need you. We need you to not only ensure you and fellow members are current with dues, but we need every one of our members to do one more thing than you did last year. In 2020, go to 4 meetings instead of the 3, take a shift distributing poppies, join the color guard at a parade, become an officer, or make some phone calls to simply check in on someone.

*Commanders, adjutants, post officers, and involved members, contact me at daniel.philip.huntley@gmail.com.

*Any post with 100% membership reported to Department Dec. 31st will be entered into a raffle. We will be drawing for a spot to the 2020 Boys State, a pancake fundraiser for your post, and hotel accommodations for post leadership at the 2020 Department Convention.

For deadlines, dates, and times for the 3rd District, you may find them on our Facebook Page @3DIALegion.

I continue looking forward to finding better ways to serve and advocate for you and your families. I would like to wish a happy 100th Birthday to the American Legion Auxiliary (I didn't assume the age) and 244th Birthday to the world's greatest fighting force.

Semper Fi,
Dan Huntley



4th District Commander Dan Boberg

Greetings fellow veterans and Legion members,

I want to Thank the members of Post 101 of Mason City for their hospitality and good food they provided for our Fall Conference. Very good job by the color guard for an opening of the event. A very nice and spacious venue with the VFW sharing the same home. I was a little disappointed with the attendance but compliment those that drove the extra miles to be

there. I guess it was a good day for field work also.

Our membership is down in comparison to last year at this time. If you are holding your membership, please don't hold them until you have a pile of them. Lets give Marcia a break and consideration as she has a lot of other things she has to do. Get them in so you don't have to listen to members saying they got another notice when they have already paid their dues.

For some of you who do not know who your District Vice Commander is for your area the following is a list. They are here to also help with guidance and support for your post.

Brandon Parcel: nightwolf_hv@yahoo.com
641-832-9502

Counties: Cerro Gordo, Floyd, Howard, Mitchel, Worth

Ron Steege: steebo2@goacentek.net
563-586-2046

Counties: Allamakee, Chickasaw, Fayette, Winneshiek

Fritz Kies : fritz99@yahoo.com
319-493-1848

Counties : Buchanan, Clayton, Delaware

Dan Boberg

Vets of Valor Radiothon

The total donations for the 12 hour radiothon on November 11, 2019 at Prairie Meadows came to \$34,594. This is a significant decrease, however, we will stretch these dollars as far as we can over the next 12 months. Donations are not closed though. You can still go to the Department Website and donate there. Consider making a 5 Star donation, \$25 per month for 12 months.

We want to thank KIOA and the Des Moines Radio Group, Prairie Meadows, and First Class

Community Credit Union for standing behind this project again this year.

Last but not least, we want to thank our Legion Family volunteers who came out to help from set up, tear down and everything in between. From phones to speaking with the public at our walk-in donation boxes, we could not have done it without your help.

Dontate: www.ialegion.org/vov.





5th District Commander Randy Johnson

Hello, District 5 Legion Family, "The American Legion (and Riders), American Legion Auxiliary (and Juniors), and Sons of The American Legion have worked decades, steadfastly, and side by side, promoting patriotism and national security while supporting youth and advocating for veterans and military. Members of The American Legion Family are individually unique. Collectively we are a multi-million member powerhouse of caring advocates dedicated to service. Our Membership is the foundation the American Legion's four pillars rest upon, and our most sacred responsibility is to look out for each other and

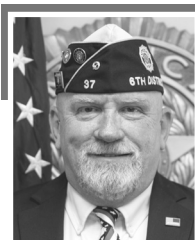
our fellow veterans." No truer words have ever been spoken outlining the Basics about The American Legion, and every National American Legion Commander and National President of the American Legion Auxiliary have spoken these words in one way or another for the past 100 years. It's the Basics of The American Legion Family that's going to be "A Foundation for the Future."

It appears we're headed back to the future. There's something afoot going on around District 5. So many positives. As our membership slide slowed over the past couple of years, it may finally be leveling out. Time will tell, but our membership numbers are up from a year ago. We've got to keep the membership push going, and when you receive a membership, get it sent in to be counted. Many post elections have taken place, post-to-post interaction is better than it's ever been, conference attendance was up,

and posts are moving forward with programs and including the units and squadrons in the process. The word is getting out (again) that nothing happens in The American Legion unless it happens first at the post level, and including their unit and squadron redoubles their efforts in everything we do.

Like I said. So many positives. But let's ask ourselves a couple simple questions. What else can we do, and are we doing everything we can to provide A Foundation for the Future? If each member of each post, including me, takes a minute and comes up with positive answers to these two questions, our foundation is strong. Keep Moving Forward District 5!

"TEAM" Together Everybody Achieves More,
Randy Johnson



6th District Commander Pat Phillips

Hello Fellow Legionnaires,

I hope that everyone in the 6th District had a memorable Veterans Day where we honored Veterans from the past and the present. I know of many Posts in our District that had great programs planned to recognize this day and made sure that their community was involved.

This occasion was also the opportunity to make

good on our promise to the National Commander to have everyone do at least one "Buddy Check". I will tell you from personal experience that the calls I made were truly appreciated. I didn't push for membership in the Legion, just called to make sure that those veterans didn't need anything, and if they did, I pointed them in the right direction.

Posts visits this month revolved around helping Posts understand the purpose of the District Officers and our mission to HELP posts with anything they feel needs addressed. We also discussed how we can help with anything from CPR submissions to Membership. Regarding membership, as a District, we made the

Target of 65% by November 14th. Great Job. But I have to warn you, each target date in up coming months will be harder to attain. Now is the time to make the Push in your Posts to get the renewals, Legion Act veterans and new recruits. Don't let up, we CAN DO THIS!!!!

Again, I want to express my sincere gratitude for allowing me to serve you and your Posts this year. Your District Leadership Team is here to serve and help. All you have to do is ask. We will be there, I promise!

For God and Country,
Patrick "Doc" Phillips



7th District Commander Brett Martin

Hello my fellow Pioneers and I would like to wish you all a belated Happy Veterans Day and thank you for your service to our nation as well as your continued service to your

community and to our American Legion. Veterans Day means a lot of things to a lot of people, but I think

that Stephanie West a Navy Veteran said it best, "it's a day when I stand a little taller, hold my head up high. My heart pumps red, white, and blue, harder than usual through my veins. It's about the camaraderie: the bonds, that not even time, can break. The instant connection and understanding of a complete stranger, who has served, because we all have walked the path together in unity. It's about family and looking out for each other. Veterans Day is a reminder to keep pushing to serve others, to continue to be a part of

something bigger than myself. To continue to make all who came before me, served next to me, those we serve today, PROUD." It is that same PRIDE that is helping our 7th District progress forward in all we do. We continue to make strides in our membership drive, buddy checks, and community Service. Thank you for all you do and please take care of each other as we keep the full court press on.

For God and Country,
Brett



8th District Commander Tom Ryan

Greetings and Salutations from the 8th District.

We have seen and participated in many events since the last issue was published. RAGBRAI, as successful as it was, it became a pet project for our Past District Commander Carl Anderson. He went full bore and got the Iowa Legion involved as a team. Many wore the specifically designed jerseys as they traveled across the bottom of the state promoting the American Legion. Carl spent many hours, phone calls, and paperwork to achieve this organizational recognition. Thanks Carl, well done.

The day RAGBRAI started, we were finishing off

the State Summer Conference. I neglected to say thanks to Vice Commander Ken Fields for his valued assistance of time and the delicious dishes he brought to the Hospitality Room. He also supplied a dish for the District 8 Fall Conference in Livermore. Vice Commander Kevin Stork helped with the hospitality and the meet and greet aspect of the program. Ken is as busy as can be with putting together the Spring District Conference. I wish to thank these gentlemen and all the other who pitched in.

Otto Field Post #415 in Livermore hosted our Fall Conference. Post Commander/Vice District Commander Roger McNeil took the reins on this project. We appreciated Commander James Kessler for his keynote address. Well done from Dee Schrod of the Auxiliary and myself. Hats off to the members and ALA of Post #415.

We have seen of late the changes the American Legion has been doing in Congress. The passing of the Navy Blue Law, Flying the MIA/POW flag below the Colors at every government building, filling in the gaps of membership requirements to join the Legion, pay raises for the military personnel, extended emergency health care at non-VA facilities (if you qualify), and National has made a change to the Preamble of the American Legion Constitution.

Thank you all for your hard work around membership, let's keep going. I must admit the Buddy System, one-on-one and going after the 729s have been working.

To all the families of District 8 and the Dept. of Iowa, I wish to extend very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

For God and Country,
Tom Ryan



9th District Commander Cliff Ripke

Greeting to all Legion Family Members in District #9,

A great big THANK YOU to the good folks at McNamara-Moore Post and Unit #61 for hosting the 9th District Fall Conference. Also, thanks to all who attended. A special thanks to Jerry Sebben (NEC),

Joe Jardon (Dept. Vice) and John Derner (Dept. Adj.) for their valuable input. The conferences are a great way to connect with other Legionnaires, get pertinent information and be reenergized to go back to our posts to do everything we can to help fellow veterans. As of 10-31-2019, 9th District is in 2nd place with 68.39%. Now is the time to make a call or stop by to see a member who has not paid. Make a list of potential new members due to the Legion Act and contact them.

Remember to contact Junior boys to encourage them to register for Boys State. The cost is \$250 per registrant if paid before Dec. 31 and \$300 thereafter.

I look forward to seeing many of you at Mid-Winter conference. Thank you for all you do. Remember, if you have questions, concerns or ideas for the betterment of the American Legion, give me or any of the District officers a call. We are here to help you.

For God and Country,
Cliff Ripke

**THE AMERICAN LEGION
SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS
MID-WINTER SCHEDULE**
(Subject to Change)

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2020

1:00 p.m. Marketing Committee – Room 397
3:00 p.m. Department Finance Commission – Room 397

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2020

9:00 a.m. Convention Commission – Room 397
10:00 a.m. Internal Affairs Commission – Iowa Room C
10:00 a.m. VA & R Commission Meeting – Room 396
10:00 a.m. Legislative Commission – Room 398
10:00 a.m. Americanism Commission – Iowa Room D
10:00 a.m. National Affairs Commission – Room 292
11:00 a.m. Resolution Sub-Committee – Room 175
11:00 - 4:00 p.m. LifeServe Blood Drive - Iowa Room B
12:00 p.m. DEC Luncheon – Iowa E
1:30 p.m. DEC Meeting – Iowa C & D
2:00 p.m. Iowa American Legion Press Association – Room 292
5:00 p.m. Color Guard Practice – Ballroom
5:00 p.m. Programs Fair Set Up – Iowa Room A
5:00 p.m. Liaison Committee – Iowa Rooms C & D
7:00 P.M. JOINT SESSION – Ballroom
Call to Order – James B. Kessler, Department Commander
Opening Ceremonies
Welcome – James B. Kessler, Department Commander
Welcome – Mike Monserud, SAL Detachment Commander
Address – Clint Bolt (VA), SAL National Commander
Welcome – Kelly Elliott ALA Department President
Presentation – ALA History & Chaplain Books
Address – Ashley Thompson, ALA Department Junior President
Presentations – Membership Awards
American Legion of Iowa Foundation Donor Awards
Department Historian Awards
Address – Randall Fisher (KY), Candidate for National Commander
8:00 - 11:00 p.m. Hospitality & Karaoke - Courtyard

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2020

7:00 a.m. Iowa Foundation Breakfast – Iowa Room E
7:30-8:30 a.m. Programs Fair – Iowa Room A
8:30 a.m. SAL DETACHMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – Westview Room
9:00 a.m. GENERAL SESSION – Ballroom South/Central

Legion Act, Membership Eligibility Changes, Buddy Checks, Preamble Changes, What to Do Before a Veteran Dies, Estate Planning & Planned Giving, Funeral Preparation

11:00 a.m. Baseball Meeting – Room 398
11:30 a.m. Past District Commanders' Luncheon–Iowa Rooms B & C
11:30 a.m. Women Veterans Meeting – Room 292

1:00-3:30 p.m. GENERAL SESSION – Ballroom Central & South

Oratorical Contest Resources, Boys State: From Reservation to Graduation, Resolution Process, Duties of Post Officers

1:00-3:30 p.m. WORKSHOP – Des Moines Room

Post Historian Workshop

1:00 p.m. SAL LEADERSHIP SEMINAR – Westview Room
3:30 p.m. Women Veterans Meeting – Room 398

3:30 p.m. AMERICAN LEGION DISTRICT CAUCUSES:

First – Room 397
Second – Iowa Room E
Third – Room 396
Fourth - Iowa Room B
Fifth – Room 394
Sixth – Iowa Room C
Seventh – Room 292
Eighth – Room 398
Ninth – Iowa Room D

4:30 p.m. American Legion Riders – Westview Room
5:00 p.m. Catholic Services - Christ the King Catholic Church, Des Moines
5:30 p.m. Protestant Services - Ballroom South
6:30 p.m. Past Department Commanders/Past Department Presidents/Past Detachment Commanders Social & Dinner – Iowa Room D & E
7:00 p.m. Oratorical Contestant/Staff Briefings – Ballroom North
8:00-11:00 p.m. Hospitality & Entertainment: *Burning Sensations* - Courtyard

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2020

7:00 a.m. Oratorical Briefing Room – Iowa E
8:00 a.m. DEPARTMENT ORATORICAL FINALS - Ballroom North
9:30 a.m. JOINT SESSION – Ballrooms Central and South
Memorial Service – James Fenceroy, Department Chaplain
Call to Order – James B. Kessler, Department Commander
Presentations – Girls State Director/Boys State Director
Girls Nation Senators
Boys Nation Senators
Oratorical Results/Awards Ceremony, Chairman Frank Andrew
Closing Remarks – Kelly Elliott, Department President
Closing Remarks – James B. Kessler, Department Commander
Benediction – James Fenceroy, Department Chaplain
Sweepstakes Drawing

Mid-Winter Programs Fair & Exhibit Tables

www.ialegion.org/midwinter

If you would like to have your program considered for the fair, please examine the following criteria first before completing the table application:

1. Exhibiting, including fundraisers, in public areas at Department Convention and Department Mid-Winter Conference shall be limited to Department and National level programs only.
2. Space will be provided only to those who have completed an application and whose applications have been approved.
3. Use of microphones or sound systems must be approved by the Department Adjutant and requested on the exhibit table application.
4. Request for use of any sound system or microphone leased or contracted by The American Legion, Department of Iowa, or the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Iowa, must be approved by the Department Adjutant and requested in advance on the exhibit table application.
5. District fundraisers will be confined to the hospitality room of the District.
6. Individual members of Districts, Posts, Units, Squadrons, and Chapters may sell raffle tickets at the event with the following provisions:

- No tables or signs will be displayed in public areas.
- All raffles must have a valid gambling permit and sales tax permit.
- No announcements will be made in public areas.

Registration can be found online at: www.ialegion.org/midwinter. The deadline for submission is December 31, 2019.

**Programs Fair & Exhibit Tables**

Sign up with the QR code on the left by December 31, 2019

**Women Veterans Forum**

Sign up with the QR code on the left by January 31, 2020

www.ialegion.org/midwinter



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

DEPARTMENT OF IOWA

Auxiliary Communique

SERVING VETERANS, THEIR FAMILIES AND THEIR COMMUNITIES



PAGE 7



Department President

Happy 100th Birthday to all our Auxiliary Units. I hope you are all holding Celebrations this year to commemorate this historic milestone. I have enjoyed some of the events so far this year. And I have enjoyed hearing about others. Some units have been doing 100 things each month to celebrate. Some examples have been 100 school supplies, giving \$100.00 to a favorite Veteran's charity, 100 volunteer hours and so much more. I am so glad you are all embracing our Centennial year. But don't forget to publicize what you are doing. We are always encouraging our Veterans to tell their story, well we need to do the same thing. Tell your stories of Service Not Self. Share with your new members the history of your Unit. Tell your why. Why you became a member. Who made you eligible and how much that Veteran means to you. Start a blog for you members. Use Facebook to share your stories and your ideas for celebrating. I have been sharing my story this year as I travel across the state. I love meeting all of you and hearing your stories and seeing the history of your Units. I want you to feel like you are along for the ride with me. I have been sharing it on our Iowa American Legion Auxiliary Facebook page as well

Kelly Elliott
Department President

Girls State

Greetings, American Legion Auxiliary Members!

Today's younger generations value meaningful experiences. Girls State is exactly that! It is a week that will give them powerful experiences to help shape their future as a citizen, a leader, and so much more – they will

as my own page. Follow along and maybe it will give you some ideas how you can celebrate this year too. So far I have been to the Rodeo in Sydney, got my picture taken with a python at the State Fair, was part of the National Presidents installation, climbed up on a huge tractor in Gladbrook, shared many meals with members, attended District Fall Conferences, attended birthday celebrations and dressed up like they did back in the 20's. I have absolutely Loved every minute of it. I am looking forward to all the adventures to come. So please follow along with me and enjoy the journey with me. In February we will be having our Mid-Winter meetings in Des Moines. I hope you are able to join us and see our History on display from each of our Districts. We have some fun things planned and I want this to be your Mid-Winter. I want you to have fun learning about our programs and sharing your ideas. This is a great weekend to talk to other Legion Family members and make some new friends. Mid-Winter is where I have learned the most and where I realized that this was the greatest organization to belong to. After I attended my first Mid-Winter, I knew this was going to be a big part of my life. I want to help you see it the way I did. I want to build that enthusiasm in you. Remind you why you joined the American Legion Auxiliary in the first place. Then I want you to take that enthusiasm back home with you and share what you have learned. Start telling your story to your unit members that weren't able to be there. Spread that enthusiasm. Thank you for making this a year I have enjoyed more than I can say. You have all been so generous and welcoming. I am looking forward to what is to come yet this year. I hope everyone has a Very Merry Christmas and a most Joyous New Year.

leave as one who can appreciate the gifts and talents of a roomful of their peers, a bond of friendship that can last a lifetime, and respect for our Country and those who have fought to defend it. We teach the basic of the Iowa political process through running for office and creating platform and laws in city, county, and state elections and meetings; we teach them how to exist in a community away from home

with a group of approximately 275 strangers; and we teach them about our American Legion Auxiliary and its programs. This may seem like a task fit for angels, but all staff members must be either former Girls State citizens or American Legion Auxiliary members, so...yes...yes, they are.

But YOU are angels as well. Girls State is considered a premier program of the American Legion Auxiliary. Don't be bashful in advertising this program to the young people of your community. It may be one week spent away from their other summer activities, but what is gained in return lasts far longer, and they will see a noticeable difference as a result of their experience.

And this year – who doesn't love a party??? We are celebrating our 75th session this year! We will have some special events, including inviting our membership to our opening session as well as our Inauguration. We are also planning an Alumni reception prior to the Inauguration. We have alumni working on a website and special items for purchase ready to launch in time for MidWinter conference – maybe even in time for your holiday gift giving! (we are getting very close on both projects!) We will keep you posted, so watch the Auxiliary email newsletter for updates!

DATES to remember:

***December 1st is the deadline for payment for a Girls State reservation @\$400 per girl. Additional requests are logged according to the date received and most years we are able to accommodate everyone's requests to send additional girls. However, we are always near our capacity of 278 girls.

***Approximately January 20 the online registration will be available on the Girls State website.

***February 28 is the deadline for the Girls online registration (which again will be on the Girls State website)

***April 30 is the deadline for a refund request (but let's hope you find someone to fill your spot – whether it is an alternate from your community or someone else's!)

***Dates of the session: June 14-19, 2020 – come to opening session at 1:PM on June 14 (Flag Day!) and Inauguration at 5:30 PM on June 19 to help us celebrate our 75th Session of Iowa American Legion Auxiliary Girls

State!

Location: Drake University, Des Moines, IA

A couple of Girls State FAQ's:

1. Who do I contact to confirm receipt of our Unit's payment for registration? The email for the Girls State chair is entered in our database as the point of contact. Please make sure that email is a valid email address, and that it is typed correctly when you register online – an automated email goes directly to that email address.

If you do not receive confirmation to that email, check your spam folder. If it is not there, you should contact the Department Office, and speak to Jeannie.

2. Can you confirm my Girls State citizen has registered online?

Again, an automated email goes to BOTH the citizen and the Girls State chairman of the sponsoring unit after the citizen registers. This is assuming the young lady enters your Unit number correctly – so please be sure you communicate with each other about this. If you do not get an email within a day or so of her assuring you that she did complete the online application, contact Jeannie at Department Office.

WISH LIST:

Sponsor a seat on the bus to the Capitol! At just \$10 per seat, your sponsorship continues to allow our Girls State citizens a wonderful morning at our State Capitol! You were very generous last year, and we appreciate you! This trip gets better and better each year! The judicial building and its speakers are a nice part of the morning, and the girls enjoy going up into the dome of our beautiful Capitol. The grounds that surround our Capitol and the monuments that dot the landscape are also beautiful to take in as we walk to each location.

Gift cards to Wal Mart, Hy Vee, Staples, Walgreen's, or a plain Visa gift card (good at ANY store) for needs during our week are also useful for First Aid items, staff meals prior to the cafeteria's opening, office supplies, and miscellaneous items in our Girls State office, store, and for our counselors.

Thank you in advance for your generosity!

Mary Andersen
Director

www.iowaala.org

Chaplain's Corner

Matthew 1:21 - *And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins.*

Christmas is when we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. God sent His Son, Jesus, into the world to be born. No Christmas gift compares to the gift of God. A glorious life that never ends. If you have God in your life, you have everything you will ever need in this life and in the next.

Christmas can be a season of great joy. It is a time of God showing His great love for us. It is a time of healing and renewed strength. God shares his love for us, we need to share our love and blessings with those that struggle every day with their personal and family needs.

When you are busy making out your Christmas lists, please remember our veterans, veteran families and our military. Christmas can be a time of sorrow. People do not have the money for gifts, food and are usually alone without family and friends. Please find it your heart to send cards, give

gift cards, hand out care packages, or adopt a veteran. Any small gesture during this holiday season to help someone have a joyful holiday will not go unnoticed by our dear Lord.

Please pray for our military who give up their time with their families to protect this great Country of ours. God Bless America!

Reminders:

1. UNIT CHAPLAINS, please send me your mid-year report prior to December 15, 2019. I am currently working on a year-end report form. Let me know what you are doing and I will share with other Units.

2. Please send me your prayers and inspirations that you wish to include in President Kelly's Book of Prayers and Inspirations.

3. Please remember the contests that are listed in the Chaplain's Program of Action page.

I pray for every member of our American Legion Family to have a beautiful Thanksgiving, a joyful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

God Bless,
Mary Mooberry
Department Chaplain

Junior Activities and Junior Convention

WOW! Can you believe it's our 100th anniversary?! 100 years of providing support and love towards our veterans and military families. 100 years of supporting one another and this organization so that the world knows what our mission is. But have you thought about the next 100 years and how this organization will continue to grow and prosper? Think about those young amazing girls who are more than willing to help with many different things to ensure that our veterans and military families are given the support that they need. Help your Junior President Ashley Thompson in guiding these girls in showing them what we stand for. These girls hold the future in their hands. We encourage you to involve them in meetings, activities, projects, and contests which can be found in the Programs Action Plan on the auxiliary website.

District junior conferences are coming up fast. Poppy posters and

Poppy corsages are judged at district junior spring conferences. The winners of the Poppy Posters will need to be sent to Pam Clark, 1261 Humbolt Avenue, Merville, Iowa 51039. The winners of the Poppy corsages will be sent to Mikayla Wicker, 3417 Oxford St. Des Moines, Iowa 50313. The winners will be sent on to Department for further judging.

Please refer to the auxiliary website for all deadlines for Junior contests. By April 30th, I need to receive from all units all entries for the following contests: Junior Public Relations Award, Unit Award, Department Award, Junior Member of the Year Award, and Poppy Corsages.

Junior Convention will be held on Friday August 14th, 2020 at the Newton Christian Conference Center in Newton, Iowa at the close of Junior Camp. Call to order will be at 9:00am with Department Junior President Macie Frambach presiding. See you at Convention!

If you have any questions, please contact Mikayla Wicker. 515-468-5217 or Kayla396@hotmail.com

Leadership

When you think of a leader, what pops into your mind? Leaders come in all different varieties. They are often disguised as the person that organizes the bake sale, the woman that gathers school supplies, the Unit member who volunteers to crochet blankets for veterans, and the list goes on and on. We need to remember that just because these individuals do not hold an office in the organization, their leadership strengths can be nurtured and can in turn strengthen our organization.

Not everyone begins thinking they are a leader. They may not think they have "what it takes". That is where mentoring, respect, reassurance and appreciation for their efforts, learning about the ALA and a positive attitude come in.

There are many opportunities to grow. We all learn from our mistakes too. If something doesn't work this time, we can get more input and ideas from our Unit on how we could change direction for future growth and success. We must commit to open discussion and add value to everyone's opinion. Challenge members to come up with solutions and set reachable goals to instill confidence.

There are many courses available in The ALA Training Academy in the Members only section

[https:// www.alaforveterans.org/ala-academy/](https://www.alaforveterans.org/ala-academy/)

Please contact me once members have completed The National Leadership Course. I have cards from National I can issue to those members and Units.

*Coming soon are- Marketing Leadership, Diversity, Managing Change and Effective Communication.

**Reporting Deadlines: Mid- Year Reports: Presidents, at all levels, please submit a report BEFORE December 15, 2019. Year End Reports: I will need these BEFORE April 25, 2020.

These are the dates I should have received your report in the mail so I may send them onto National. We want Nicole's year to shine, so please don't delay.

Taking the time to share a favorite story about the positive impact you or someone you know has had on our mission is worth doing! It helps us tell the world who we are, what we do, and why we matter. Our Department of Iowa has many leaders within our ranks. Please share their successes with us all.

You may email reports to me at bonesteel65@gmail.com with the Subject- ALA Iowa Leadership or mail reports to:

Kaye Bonesteel
PO Box 327
Shellsburg, IA 52332

Thank you for all each and every one of you do to support our veterans and their families.

Respectfully,
Kaye Bonesteel

MW Past President's Luncheon

This is the 29th Anniversary of the Past President's luncheon. This is where our "100 Years of Service not Self" continues. There are so many memories that we need to share with each other. I would like to put together a booklet of memories of one thing that happened in your year. You may email that memory ASAP but no later than January 30th, 2020 to lindasue39@mchsi.com. Come join the fellowship!

Who: To all Past District Presidents and 2019-2020 current President's

When: Saturday, February 15, 2020

Where: Mid-Winter Luncheon @ Noon

Why: Business meeting to elect officers and a memorial service

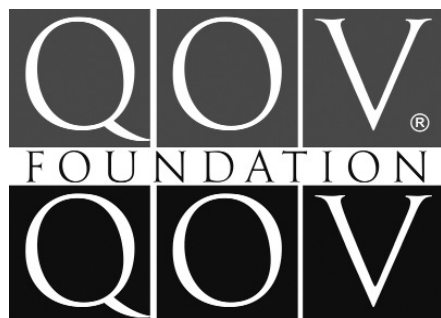
Guests: National Central Division Vice President Ruth Gott from Michigan & Department of Iowa President Kelly Elliott

Menu: Philly Cheesesteak on a hoagie, salad, cookie and beverage

Cost: \$26.00 to Department of Iowa ALA, 720 Lyon Street, Des Moines 50309

Deadline is February 7, 2020 – No exceptions and no refunds after this date.

Linda Sue Mullen
Secretary



Quilts of Valor Retreat: January 17-19, 2020

Registration Deadline: December 15, 2019

More information and sign up:

<https://iowaala.org/page/content/members/forms>

Historian

History is the collection of written articles and/or photos to help preserve events that have taken place within a specific time and as Historian it is my duty to record these events on the National, Department, District, County and Unit levels during President Kelly's term.

I am asking each of you to take lots of photos and send them to me along with any newspaper clippings, etc. of events so I will be able to put them into President Kelly's History/Scrapbook. If your unit has a Junior Unit please include them in your activities. I also ask that you include the usual Who, What, Where, When and please tell me what District the items that you send me are for.

Since this is the ALA's 100th year, I would ask each unit to write up a short history on your unit and please include when it was chartered and who the charter members were along with a photo (if you have one) of them. PLEASE limit to 2 pages and send to me by June 15th, 2020. I will be looking for the oldest and newest units.

Please check the National website at www.alaforveterans.org for any contests that the National Historian will be having.

Remember, Mid-year reports are due by December 15th 2019 and Year-end reports are due by April 30th 2020. I look forward to hearing from you and reading your reports.

LaDonna Runner
Dept. Historian

National President

Words cannot express the pride and appreciation I feel regarding how you showcased to the American Legion Family from across the country what Iowa can do when everyone works together for a common cause. At every turn during this 3-day Homecoming in America's Heartland, the "Iowa Nice" hospitality and Midwest hard work ethic were on display; while your dedication and commitment to our state and mission was echoed countless times.

Dave and Ann Rehbein, thank you to for agreeing to not only chair my campaign, but also the coordination of this homecoming. The Iowa Standing Tall with Nicole team as amazed me at every turn these four years right along-side my very own Gladbrook team lead by my parents, Jeanne and

Darrell Paustian.

There are not enough thanks to go around for all the dedication that Iowa has shown. If I start to list everyone to THANK, I know I would accidentally omit an individual or a business. Each of you know what you contributed to the success of this once in a lifetime experience, so please accept my sincere gratitude.

This National President of the American Legion Auxiliary is very proud to say she comes from the wonderful state, "Where the Tall Corn Grows!"

Enjoy following my yearlong travels on the American Legion Auxiliary National President Facebook page.

I can't wait to spend Department Convention with all of you, as we are Celebrating a Century of Service!

THANK YOU and LOVE,
National President Nikki



Like us on Facebook
@americanlegionauxiliaryiowa

Poppies

As Department of Iowa Poppy Chairman, I received a communication from the National Poppy Chairman, Beth McGinn. She wrote: "In honor of our Centennial, I would like to share with you my special project celebrating the Poppy, which, as some you may know, is what originally attracted our National President Nicole Clapp to the American Legion Auxiliary at age 4.

I would like to collect a Poppy from every Department with something added that pertains specifically to your department. Examples could be a Star for Texas, a Pineapple for Hawaii, an Orange for Florida, etc. Each poppy will be placed on a United States map, which will be presented to Nicole at the National Convention."

To honor this request here in Iowa, we will be adding another class to our annual poppy contest held at Midwinter Conference. So in addition to creating poppy hats, poppy table arrangements, poppy crafts, etc. also create a poppy made of any material, no more than 2" in diameter, with the addition of something related to our Iowa department, for example an ear of stalk of corn. We will select one poppy to send on to the National poppy chairman to place on her United States map.

Following is a list of all the contest classes you can enter at Midwinter Conference. If you would like to enter something, but can't be at conference, just send your entry along with someone from your district. Since the poppy is celebrating 100 years as our special memorial flower, let's see lots of entries this year. There will be prizes.

How Poppy Funds Can Be Used

One thing that comes to mind as we get into our year is the importance of our members knowing the proper use of Poppy Funds. The Poppy Program Guide is a wonderful tool for learning all you can about the program and on Page 6 it states the proper uses:

"In accordance with The American Legion Poppy Program and Poppy Fund Rules, as revised in 2013 and 2014 by The American Legion National Executive Committee, Poppy Funds may only be used for:*

- The rehabilitation of veterans honorably discharged from the United States Armed Forces after April 6, 1917.
- The welfare of the families of veterans of the above-named period.
- The rehabilitation of hospitalized military service personnel returning home and awaiting discharge

Remember both Senior and Junior members are eligible to enter these contests.

Mid-Winter Contests: Poppy Hat Contest: Shine up your skills to make your Poppy Hat the best yet. Please incorporate President Kelly's theme (100 years of Service to Veterans) You can also use her symbol, which is angel wings.

Small Poppy Centerpiece: Make a small centerpiece using 5 small poppies and using President Kelly's theme.

Large Poppy Centerpiece: A combination of 6 or more small and large poppies used honoring President Kelly's theme.

New-Original Poppy craftwork: Enter any craft style to highlight the poppy. Let's see some new and original ideas. Remember this could be a quilt, a crocheted piece, a painting, an etching, Quill art, any craft will be accepted as long as it highlights the poppy.

Celebrating the Poppy's and our ALA's 100th Birthday: Use at least 10 poppies of either size (with each one representing 10 years of ALA poppy history) to create an entry celebrating our 100-year milestone.

Also remember to use the poppy at your unit functions and events all year long, and then remember to report how you used the poppy in your mid-year reports due to me by Dec. 15th, and your annual narratives sent to me by April 30th. Don't forget to send photos and newspaper articles about your events. The best unit poppy report demonstrating how you used the poppy all year long, will receive an award at summer convention.

Pam Clark
Dept. Poppy Chairman

who require treatment in service hospitals.

- The welfare of veterans, active military personnel, and the families of veterans and active military personnel of the above-named period where financial and medical need is evident.

- For the purpose of poppy kits and supplies used to make symbolic poppies and poppy items that will be distributed for donations to the Poppy Fund.

"All funds collected prior to the passage of this resolution be solely used for the intent and purpose of prior resolutions and not for active-duty service members or families. New funds collected after approval of this resolution may be used for active-duty military and families as outlined."*

Have a great year celebrating the poppy and what it means for our veterans, our military and their families.

Mary L. Sebben
Central Division Poppy Chairman

American Legion Auxiliary Mid-Winter Schedule (Schedule is subject to change)

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2020

8:00 a.m. Mid-Winter Convention Committee Meeting – Room 394
 8:30 a.m. Finance Committee Meeting – Room 394
 9:00 – 11 a.m. Set up for Diva and Dudes Day – Westview Room
 11:00 a.m. VA & R Representative Meeting – Room 394
 11:45 a.m. Junior Camp Board Meeting – Room 394
 11:00 a.m. “Diva and Dudes Day” – Westview Rooms
 1:00 p.m. Department Executive Committee – Room 397
 3:30 p.m. Girls State Board – Room 394
 4:30 p.m. 75th Anniversary Committee – Room 394
 5:00 p.m. Pages Practice – Grand Ballroom
 5:00 – 7 p.m. Set-up Programs Fair – Iowa Hall Rooms A & B
 7:00 p.m. Joint Legion Family Session – Ballroom

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2020

7:30-8:30 a.m. Joint Program Fair – Iowa Hall Room A - Committees will have information tables and be in attendance for questions.
 9:00am Joint Legion Family Session – Ballroom
 10:00 a.m. Convene Auxiliary – North Ballroom
 Opening and Welcome – President Kelly Elliott
 Prayer – Chaplain Mary Mooberry
 Moment of Silence
 Pledge of Allegiance – Americanism Chair – Mary Sypherd
 National Anthem – Americanism Chair – Mary Sypherd
 Preamble – Governing Documents Chairman – Sandy Deacon
 Welcome – President Kelly Elliott
 NEC & Liaison Committee Report – Ann Crawford
 Future Focus – Jayne Soppe
 Centennial Committee – Diana Shadduck

Membership Report – Judy Ring, Chairman, Jammie Phillips, Alida Kolthoff
 VA&R Service to Veterans – Joyce Elliott
 Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation – Judy Neal
 Finance Report-Dawn Aberle, Linda Sue Mullen, Julie Rosenboom
 Historian Report-LaDonna Runner
 Chaplain Report-Mary Mooberry
 Parliamentarian-Diana Shadduck
 Governing Documents/Policy report-Sandy Deacon
 Past District Presidents’ Luncheon – Iowa D & E
 11:30 a.m. BREAKOUT SESSIONS
 1:00 p.m. Group A
 Group B
 Group C
 4:00pm Reconvene Auxiliary – North Ballroom
 Girls State – Mary Andersen, Bev Copple, Ann Rehbein
 Ann Rehbein, National Vice Chairman
 75th Girls State Anniversary Committee – Mary Andersen
 Poppy Award Winners – Pam Clark
 Announcements
 4:35 p.m. Adjourn – President Kelly Elliott
 4:40 p.m. Receiving Line – Ballroom Foyer
 National Executive Committee Woman – Ann Crawford
 Department Vice President Candidate – Doris Jackson
 Department Junior President – Ashley Thompson
 5:30 p.m. Catholic Mass – Christ the King Catholic Church
 5711 SW 9th St
 5:30 p.m. Protestant Services – Ballroom South
 5:30 p.m. Silent Auction – Hosted by Girls State – Courtyard
 6:30 p.m. Social & Dinner for Past Department Commanders, Past Department Presidents, and Past Detachment Commanders and their guests – Iowa Rooms D & E

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2020

Follow The American Legion Schedule.

If you have not registered for the E-Newsletter, sign up today by going to the website and clicking on Sign Up.

100 Reasons to Celebrate

The American Legion Auxiliary members are planning celebrations for our 100th anniversary on November 10, 2019 through the National Convention 2020. How will your unit, county or district celebrate the accomplishments of your members? Many patriotic floats were seen in Iowa communities. William Ball Unit 58 of Nevada celebrated with a float for the Lincoln Highway Parade.

Lisa Williamson, ALA 100th Anniversary National Committee Member: “Communication is a key element to the success of our 100th anniversary celebration.” Tell your story, loud, proud and clear so that your community will understand who we

are and why our organization matters to our Veterans, community and nation. Please send your celebration stories to this committee chairman so that we can share with others.

Your Department Centennial Committee has prepared a special centennial booklet, “Iowa’s Legacy of Leadership, 100 Years of Service 1919-2019”. Order forms are available on the Auxiliary web page at www.iowaala.org. We look forward to celebrating our history together. Mark your calendar for our July 2020 Department Convention and watch for details of our Department Gala Event.

Diana Shadduck
Dept. Centennial Committee Chair

Community Service

Our theme this year is “100 Years of Service not Self” and our symbol is Angels. Have you been an angel?

Veteran’s Day has passed. Did you or your Unit do something special? Did you take pictures, publish it?

Remember to wear your American Legion Auxiliary apparel or pins while volunteering.

Examples of service is: organize a flag folding presentation at the schools, presentation of how to retire the American flag properly. Represent the Auxiliary as a member of local community boards and committees. Teaching Sunday school, singing in the choir, working at funerals for community members and veterans. Also count your hours and any food donations. Gift baskets for the holidays

for the elderly, families of those deployed. Scoop the sidewalks for the elderly and disable. Support and assist with Meals on Wheels, offer rides to Doctor Appointments. The lists goes on and on. Be creative! Have fun with this program.

Biggest thing is remember to record your hours and any dollar amounts you spend on the Community Service Hours Worksheet. Publish your actions, toot you horn.

Mid-Year reports are due to me by Dec. 1st. End of the Year reports due April 15th. Entries must include the award cover sheet. Also and pictures and news articles.

BE VISIBLE IN YOUR COMMUNITY!
Wear your Auxiliary apparel and you pins.

Connie K. Wagner
Chairperson

Purses! Purses! Purses! SAVE THE DATE

The Junior Camp Board will be hosting a Silent Auction at the Department Convention titled “Purses, Purses, Purses”! Each purse will contain a surprise with a tag attached to give you an idea of what may be inside. So you are bidding on the purse plus the contents!

If you would like to donate a purse, here is all you need to do: one nice looking

purse (not worn, frayed or torn), tag could say “adding spice to your life” so purse has Cajun Chex mix and spicy nuts. The tag could say “Tiny bubbles” and be a bottle of wine and two glasses. It could say “Fifteen two and a run of four for six” so purse has a cribbage board, deck of cards, note pad and pen.

Please join us in the fun and promote one of President Kelly’s projects “Junior Camp” this year! If you have any questions, please email or call Doris Jackson at 515-468-1274 or mrsj@grm.net.

How Does The American Legion Grow?

www.ialegion.org/commander

Labor day weekend your Department Commander was in Sheldon Iowa for a weekend celebration when I was given a card by a candidate running a Congressional seat in the 4th district. I was in the Department Van waiting for the parade to start. My comment was we need to talk; I gave him my card. One day he called asking to meet with me, he wanted input about V.A. health care, so we did meet at our kitchen table.

His first question was how does The American Legion grow? My first answer was membership (silence) then how do we get those new members? Then the dialogue continued with veterans we ask to join The Legion and the importance of the V.A. health care because the doctors in the V.A. system were doctors who served their country in uniform. They understand what the veteran has experience. The various programs we have in The American Legion was another item, along with the dollar amount of scholarships available, the camaraderie amongst those who have served. With mental health, suicide, and families breaking up, how can Washington help? Adequate funding for the V.A. so adequate staffing is in place for the veteran and their families at all time is needed.

So what your Commander is asking of all American Legion Members is this when you ask a veteran and their family to join, tell them we care and we are here for them. Emphasize the importance of the understanding of those V.A. doctors, Legion programs and we the veterans of The American Legion do care about them and their families. THE V.A. crisis hot line number 24/7 is 1888 457 4838.

Commander Jim

Sweepstakes Reminder

Keep an eye out for Mid-Winter Sweepstakes packages in your mailboxes. There are a handful prizes available with a Grand Prize of \$5,000. To be eligible, entries must be post marked, by January 27, 2020. Good luck to all of you!

Val Likens Award

www.ialegion.org/service-office

Valore (Val) Likens, distinguished himself as the Department Service Officer for many years. Upon news of his retirement in 1985, Iowa Veterans Home Deputy Director Al McNaughton, recommended an award be named after Likens, as a reminder of all the good that service officers do for the veterans of Iowa. The Department Executive Committee officially passed the motion in July 1986.

Nomination Forms for the Val Likens Post Service Officer Award are available on the Department website <https://www.ialegion.org/service-office> or by request from the Department office. Please return the completed nomination by January 30, in time for judging at Mid-Winter Conference.

Send nominations to:

American Legion of Iowa Service Office
Federal Building Room #561
210 Walnut St.
Des Moines, IA 50309.

Department Membership

Donald Swan, Chairman

Membership Fall Report Fall

Legionnaires, if your living in Iowa we are experiencing a cold November but your District Commanders and Membership workers are HOT. Your Membership workers need to be commended for the hard work they have all been putting in. The weekly reports show that we are keeping close to last years numbers and some weeks exceeding them. Membership and how we do as a Department is entirely up to EVERYONE. Yes, it sometimes seems that at the Post we are the small cogs in the wheel but how every Post performs in the communities we live in determines how much potential they

have to achieve their Membership goals. If your Post is active and running the programs of the American Legion I believe that people in your communities will want to help.

Try to keep the Membership momentum going, keep performing "Buddy Checks" to make sure all of your members have been contacted and if possible renewed at that time. Keep up the great work and let's make this a great Membership year. I hope all of you have a great Holliday Season! I am looking forward to seeing all of you at the Mid-Winter Convention in February.

Thank You,
Don Swan

Membership Memos

Here we are with the holidays upon us once again. I hope everyone will take some time to reflect on past months and the accomplishments and changes that have taken place.

Over the past year or two there have been a lot of changes with the processing of membership. There have been some growing pains and some rewards and it is hard to have one without the other. One of the first changes was members were able to renew their membership online. Then last year posts were able to do post transmittals online. Next came the change of the Department doing transmittals online. Now finally and most recent is the change to allow SAL squadrons to do online transmittals.

Because of these changes there are some process changes that some posts need to be reminded of. If a member pays online you will need to send them their card but DO NOT send the other portion of the card to Department. Keep it for your records. If your post is doing Online Transmittals, you also keep the cards, do

not send them to Department.

The only cards that get sent to me here at department are the cards you are paying for on a traditional transmittal as you have always done in the past. If you are sending transmittal the traditional way then there should be a Membership Transmittal Form (filled out completely), a check for the amount due and a two-part card for each member you are paying for. Do not send membership applications, they are for the post records. Most of these processes are covered in the Membership Processing Manual that you receive each year with your membership materials for the year. If you don't find the answer to your questions there, please feel free to contact me and get it right before sending it in. It is much easier to get it right the first time otherwise it may cause a delay in processing of the membership.

I hope you all have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Marcia Hoch
Department Membership &
Executive Secretary

District Standings as of 11/22/2019

STANDING	DISTRICT	2020 GROWTH GOAL	CURRENT MEMBERSHIP	PERCENTAGE
First	3rd	5,191	3,933	75.77
Second	8th	3,875	2,914	75.20
Third	9th	5,460	4,105	75.18
Fourth	7th	3,391	2,530	74.61
Fifth	6th	4,904	3,647	74.37
Sixth	1st	3,991	2,962	74.22
Seventh	5th	2,948	2,179	73.91
Eighth	2nd	6,606	4,880	71.39
Ninth	4th	4,152	2,964	71.39
DEPARTMENT TOTAL		41,743	30,584	73.27

**The next membership cutoff date is December 11, 2019.
Transmittals must be at Department FIVE days prior for processing.**

Due to the delayed accuracy of the quarterly published membership report, it will no longer be printed in The Iowa Legionnaire. You may find an accurate report for your post on myLegion.org or www.ialegion.org/membership.

Scouting Awards

www.ialegion.org/scouting

The submission deadline to Department will be March 1, 2020, for Eagle Scout of the Year, Adult Boy Scout of the Year, and Adult Cub Scout of the Year. Eagle Scouts are required to complete the fillable version online, print, and obtain proper signatures. Nominations for Adult Scouts can be found on the Department website or are available by request from the Department office.

Submissions for the Square Knot Award for adult leaders can be applied for at any time. Applications available on the Department website or are available by request from the Department office.

A Certificate and Department Commander's endorsement letter can be sent to any Scout who achieves the rank of Eagle. The request is available on the Department website www.ialegion.org/scouting or are available by request from the Department office.

Educator of the Year

www.ialegion.org/educator

One of the goals of The American Legion has always been to work in cooperation with schools who assist veterans, their families and local communities. Some educators have gone above the call of duty and promoted the aims and purposes of The American Legion of Iowa.

Educators continue to instill in our children patriotism

and respect for the flag. They continue to educate our youth about the sacrifices made by service men and women in defense of their freedom, as well as work with those students whose parent/s are serving this great nation.

The Department of Iowa developed a state program for recognizing educators in Iowa. Nomination brochures are available on our website at www.ialegion.org or by request from the Department office.

Nominations must be received by April 1, 2020.

Iowa Home Show

Past Department Commander and Marketing Commission Chair Jim Peterson is heading up the effort to have an American Legion booth at the 2020 Iowa Home Show.

The show will be January 10-12, 2020 at the Varied

Industries building on the fairgrounds in Des Moines.

We are planning three hour shifts in the booth and will need two volunteers for each shift. Volunteers will receive a free ticket to the show.

To see open spots to volunteer, go here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/805094dabaf23a1ff2-iowa>

Baseball

www.ialegion.org/baseball



Teams committed to play in the 2020 Season will need to have their coaches/managers attend the Mid-Winter meeting on Saturday, February 15, 2020. The meeting will be in Room 398 of the Airport Holiday Inn Des Moines at 11:00 AM. Area and State Tournament details will be discussed at this meeting.

Registration fees are due to National on February 28, 2020 - www.baseball.legion.org.

Player Indemnification Forms (Form 2) for

state play are due to Department Headquarters April 1, 2020.

Team rosters are due April 1, 2020 on National's site. Rosters will be certified soon afterwards. There will be no exceptions this year.

If a member of your team cannot attend, please notify The Department (800-365-8387, programs@ialegion.org) or your District Chairman.

All members of the Department Baseball Committee as well as coaches and managers are highly encouraged to attend.

The American Legion and Political Campaigns

The early status of the Iowa Caucuses has already put our state on the national political stage. Therefore, it is important to review the nonpartisan status of The American Legion.

Article II, Section 2, of the Constitution of The American Legion states: "The American Legion shall be absolutely nonpolitical and shall not be used for the dissemination of partisan principles nor for the promotion of the candidacy of any person seeking public office or preferment."

In addition, 36 US Code Section 21706 states of The American Legion: "The Corporation shall be nonpolitical and may not promote the candidacy of an individual seeking public office."

The American Legion's policy and the US Code state that we cannot show political preference to any candidate or party.

The American Legion's policy on nonpartisanship does not mean that the individual members are forbidden to show partisanship. The point to remember is that when partisanship is shown, it must be independent of association with The American Legion.

According to the Officer's Guide and Manual of Ceremonies, A Legionnaire is in uniform if

wearing an official American Legion cap. It is not an individual Legion member's decision on the appropriate usage of the cap and emblem. If attending a political event, The American Legion cap, or any clothing with the emblem visible, should be removed so as not to imply endorsement by The American Legion. The problem is the assumption of endorsement by those who see the emblem or name worn at in improper location, such as a partisan rally.

When using post facilities to host candidates, post should remove emblem and Legion flag to avoid any impression of endorsements. Candidates for all parties must be presented equal opportunity at the same time to use the facilities on the same terms and conditions as other competing candidates.

If financial contributions are offered by candidates for political office, campaigns, political action committees or political parties, The American Legion should politely decline. Accepting these contributions may be perfectly legal, but The American Legion must avoid any perception of supporting any candidate or political party.

The American Legion values its independence and effectiveness on veterans' issues. This stance is best maintained by neutrality on individual candidates or political parties. The American Legion by legal definition is non-partisan and supports only issues.

Bike Ride Continued

Crawfordsville, IN, welcome committee on arrival, lodging & meals; Indianapolis, IN, private tour of American Legion National Headquarters with Americanism Director Jill Druskis, lunch; Wheeling, WV, lodging & meals; also Post 572 in Fairfax, Iowa provided a \$200 donation. In addition, five local newspapers across the country did stories on my ride to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the American Legion.

Three days before arriving in Washington, DC I had a little mishap on the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal Towpath. I hit an uneven area of path over an aqueduct and was thrown from my bike. A bit shaken and experiencing some pain, I got up, made sure my bike was ok

and continued. In Washington, DC my three daughters and five grandkids met me. It was a great occasion, but by now the pain was pretty intense so the celebrating was a bit low key. After more prodding from Kay and my daughter who is a nurse, I went to an emergency room that evening. X-rays revealed three broken ribs.

A few days after returning home a packaged arrived in the mail from the Architect of the Capitol (didn't know there was such as title). Inside was a beautiful, 3' x 5', high quality, United States Flag accompanied by a letter of authenticity. Photos attached.

Thanks for your time and best regards,
Larry Ritland - 515 460 3661



Department E-Newsletter
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Articles are due February 15, 2020 in order to be considered for the next issue of The Iowa Legionnaire.
Please email submissions to programs@ialegion.org

**Post & Squadron
Everlasting reflect members
8-16-2019 TO 11-15-2019****SPENCER POST #1**

STEVEN BRONS
MARION POSTHUMUS
FRANK ROSE
PAUL STAVE

COUNCIL BLUFFS POST #2

CHARLES CARLSON
JACK DORAN
MERLE JOHNSON
LOUIS KELLEY

STEPHEN OSIER
RUSSELL RAINS

LYLE THRUSH
DOUGLAS Uecker

PHIL WAGNER
ROGER WATERS

ROBERT WOHLERS
PAUL WOODS

WILLIAM YOUNG
OTTUMWA POST #3

MICHAEL CRITCHLOW
EDWARD CULLINAN

JERALD DWIGHT
JON KNEEN

JACK MILTICH
STANLEY STEFFEN

HUBBARD POST #4
A FORBES

LYLE MATHEWS
M NYGAARD

RUSSELL VANDORNUM
DUBUQUE POST #6

WILLIAM BOYES
LOUIS KARTMAN

RONALD SCHROMEN
ROBERT TITTLE

CARROLL POST #7
ROBERT FANGMAN

DENISON POST #8
RICHARD TRAUFLER

OELWEIN POST #9
ROBERT HENDERSON

MARVIN LEVERINGTON
RONALD SQUIRES

JEFFERSON POST #11
ROBERT OWENS

ANAMOSA POST #13
GERALD EASTRIDGE

LAWRENCE HERMESCH
PILOT MOUND #16

PAUL FRITCHER
IOWA CITY #17

ROBERT SEYDEL
POCAHONTAS POST #18

JAMES SHIMON
SIGOURNEY POST #19

WILFORD SEABA
ALVIN WEBER

DEDHAM POST #20
LAVERN NEU

BUFFALO CNTR POST #21
HENRY VANHOVE

MANNING POST #22
EUGENE CASE

RAYMOND IRLBECK
FRANKLIN MOHR

SPIRIT LAKE #23
DANIEL KINLEN

LOWELL WATTERS
ROLFE POST #25

EDW WEILAND
DAVENPORT POST #26

KENNETH DEVRIES
IVAN EVEN

EUGENE GEIST
JOHN TUCK

LUDWIG TURNQUIST
MUSCATINE POST #27

JACK HILLIER
GLENN REIF

WASHINGTON POST #29
WILLIAM GUENTHER

FRANK HANSHEW
ROBERT LENNINGER

MILO ORRIS
LEONARD YOUNG

INDEPENDENCE POST #30
JAMES CONNELL

LAKE CITY POST #31
DONALD SMITH

RUTHVEN POST #33
RONALD HANSON

ANDREW HERMANSON
OSKALOOSA POST #34

RAYMOND ROBINSON
BELMOND POST #35

ROBERT COURSON
PRIMGAR POST #36

RON JOHANNSEN
AMES POST #37

JAMES CUE
AVON HALL

VERNE TANNER
NEW HAMPTON POST #38

DONALD BOEDING
DUANE GALLIGAN

DUANE LARSEN
DENNIS REAMAN

LEONARD ROSONKE
MERLE SCHWICKERATH

BELLE PLAINE POST #39
RICHARD DEVORE

RALPH HOLMES
KEOKUK POST #41

CLARENCE ADAMS
FLOYD BAUM

VERLYN DAVIS
LARRY DAVIS

KENNETH GRANT
WILLIAM KATSUMES

W PEEL
CARROLL RAIDEN

DONALD ROBERTSON
MANCHESTER POST #45

RAYMOND DENEVE
LEONARD HAIGHT

TODD TOMLIN
MARSHALLTOWN #46

GERALD ANDERSON
JAMES BLAZEK

WILLIAM BURNS
EDWARD BURNS

VERNON DECKER
GEORGE DIXON

LARRY FRITZ
WENDELL HARMON

CLAYTON JOHNSON
GEORGE KEEN

ANTHONY KNOLL
GEORGE LAMASTERS

CLARENCE MANN
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HAROLD LINDAMAN
MT. PLEASANT POST #58

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STORY CITY POST #59
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ORLAN EHLE
RICHARD HAGEMEIER

WAUKON POST #62
DELBERT TIMMERMAN

SIOUX CITY POST #64
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GALEN GEHRTS
GERALD MEISTER

CHARLES MEYER
JOHN PULLIS

JERRY SHERLIN
MICHAEL WOOD

CORYDON POST #68
DENNIS CRISWELL

ELBERT PIDCOCK
OSCEOLA POST #69

EARL FITCH
CRESTON POST #70

MARVIN BUNKOFSKE
TOLEDO POST #72

JAMES KURTH
SABULA POST #74

JOHN COLE
DONALD WYANT

MAQUOKETA POST #75
JIM MANDERSCHIED

MARENGO POST #76
LAWRENCE MCGURK

BLOOMFIELD POST #78
RUSSELL SWEARINGEN

FT. MADISON POST #82
LEONARD ANDERSON

PERRY POST #85
JAMES GALLIGAN

SHENANDOAH POST #88
FRANKLIN BAYLESS

PELLA POST #89
HAROLD BEYER

ESTHERVILLE POST #91
RALPH McDONALD

SALEM POST #94
WILMER COX

CLEARFIELD POST #97
FREDERICK SIVERLY

COLUMBUS JCT. POST #100
JAMES BOYD

JAMES THOMPSON
MASON CITY POST #101

RALPH PREUSS
CHARLES SCHILLING

CHARITON POST #102
DONALD CRAWFORD

DENNIS GOETSCH
ROCK RAPIDS POST #103

HAROLD KIX
JAMES WELLS

ELKADER POST #106
JOHN MOYNA

KEYSTONE POST #107
EDWARD MCGIVERN

DALE POPP
MANLY POST #110

GLEN DIETRICH
NEWTON POST #111

CHARLES BROWN
DONALD BURNETT

GARY CLEMON
JOHN LEWIS

WAYNE NORTH CUTT
MARVIN OPPEDAL

FRANK ROSS
RICHARD VARNUM

MORNING SUN POST #112
RALPH STONE

KEOSAUQUA POST #113
PAUL JOHNSTON

AUDUBON POST #120
DALE CHRISTIANSEN

FOREST CITY POST #121
NORMAN NYHUS

RICHARD THOMPSON
STATE CNTR POST #122

DAVID BILLMAN
TIPTON POST #123

WILLIAM BECKLEY
J CLARK

GUTHRIE CNTR POST #124
LOREN CABELKA

ROGER CHALFANT
ROBERT HAYES

ROBERT REIL
GLADBROOK POST #127

MICHAEL BROWN
KEITH WEGNER

SIDNEY POST #128
RONALD FLETCHER

BOBBIE MATHER
CHARLES SCHAAF

KAY SIMPSON
ONAWA POST #129

GILBERT HEDGES
DONALD SOUTHWICK

FT. DODGE POST #130
ELDON HOVEY

ROBERT KEELER
JAMES MCNALLY

JACK WEIDERHOLT
BEAMAN POST #131

HAROLD SKRAMOVSKY
MANILLA POST #132

JAMES HERMELING
CRESCO POST #135

RICHARD BUCK
MERLIN KRATZ

ALBIA POST #136
JAMES COADY

DYERSVILLE POST #137
JOSEPH DOYLE

EDWIN MAIERS
RUSSELL REICHER

WATERLOO POST #138
ROBERT WRIDER

GLENWOOD POST #141
STEPHEN BUCKINGHAM

ROBERT GOODWIN
JAMES MADISON

GEORGE TUCKER
TRAER POST #142

ROBERT ALTENHEIN
SHELDON POST #145

GEORGE STERLER
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STUART POST #146
GEORGE THURMAN

HARLAN POST #150
LAVERNE SCHUNING

WEST BEND POST #151
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HENRY LAUCK
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ROBERT TOMFORDE
HAMBURG POST #156

HAROLD MITCHELL
DONALD PEELER

WILLIAM TYSOR
EARLHAM POST #158

JACK JOHNS
DELHI POST #160

PAUL SIDDELL
GRAETTINGER POST #162

ROBERT THOMSEN
DECORAH POST #163

SPENCER BOLSON
NORMAN DICKMAN

BEDFORD POST #164
VERA ASHLEY

GARY REEVE
BILLY ROBINSON

INDIANOLA POST #165
JOHN BABCOCK

JOSEPH BRENNAN
JOHN CULBERTSON

DALE NICHOLLS
SHELLSBURG POST #166

REX THOMPSON
MONTEZUMA POST #169

RICK STOKES
TOMMY WHEELDON

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JOHN SVOBODA
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MAURICE HAY
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MARY LIAS
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CARL KOHRT

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ROD

Junior Shooting Sports Program

www.ialegion.org/jssp

The Department will again have its 3-Position Air Rifle Match March 14, 2020 at Camp Dodge. American Legion Affiliated Teams or Clubs wishing to participate can register online at: www.ialegion.org/jssp.

Shooters wishing to participate at Department Matches need to also register with the Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP), which is free. Information can be found through www.thecmp.org.

Space is limited. Registrations must be submitted to Department Headquarters no later than March 1, 2020. Registrations received afterwards will not be accepted.



2020 Boys State Timeline and Deadline Updates

www.ialegion.org/boysstate

Department Headquarters will begin to take post reservations for the 2020 American Legion of Iowa Boys State Program soon. The dates next year have been set for Sunday, June 21 - Friday, June 26, 2020. Please direct any questions to your Post or District Chairmen concerning the process.

Please note orientation dates will be made available by the end of January. Also, please note the delegate registration opening and closing.

December 31, 2019 - \$250 Early Bird Reservation Deadline.

January 1, 2020 - Reservation fee increases to \$300.

January 15, 2020 - Delegate Registration opens. Posts are to deliver each candidate registration instructions they received with their reservation confirmation. **Samsung Scholarship Applications** will be made available through National's site: www.legion.org/scholarships/samsung.

April 1, 2020 - Post Refund Request Deadline - Requests must be received through the online form www.ialegion.org/refunds by 11:59 PM. No exceptions will be honored afterwards.

April 1, 2020 - Delegate Registration Closes

April-May 2020 - District Orientations will take place (see Department website)

June 21-26, 2020 - The American Legion Boys State Program held at Camp Dodge in Johnston, Iowa.

June 23, 2020 - Legionnaire's Day at Boys State

Boys State Resources Available Online

- Dates & Reminders
- Post Chairman Guide
- Reservation Information
- Orientation Materials
- Delegate Handbook
- Photos & Videos
- Post Refund Information
- FAQs

2019-2020 Fifth Grade Flag Essay Contest

www.ialegion.org/flag-essay

Each of the three Department finalists will be recognized in the same manner as other youth champions and the top three winners will be invited to read their winning essay at the Department Convention. First, Second, and Third Place winners will receive \$500, \$300, and \$200, respectively, from The American Legion of Iowa and Iowa Foundation.

Contest Information

Local contests will be conducted and judged by the local sponsoring Legion Post, and the winning essay, along with certification form completed, will be forwarded as follows:

1. Individual Legion Posts will forward one winning entry to their District Children and

Youth Chairman, with signed Participation Application, postmarked by January 2, 2020.

2. District entries will be judged by the respective District Children and Youth Chairman, and sent to Department Headquarters, postmarked by January 22, 2020.

3. Department Children and Youth Committee will judge the nine District entries at Mid-Winter Conference, immediately following the Americanism meeting.

Essay & Eligibility Information

The format for the essay is limited to the following: A one (1) page document containing 300 words or less, double-spaced, 12-point font, and the student's own words and effort. The essay is to reflect the student's perspective of what the United States Flag represents to them using facts from the United States Flag Code.

For more information go to: www.ialegion.org/flag-essay

American Legion teams up with Stars and Stripes

The American Legion

A relationship that began over a century ago between The American Legion and Stars and Stripes is refreshed this year through a new media-sharing agreement.

Members of The American Legion can receive 50 percent discounts on annual subscriptions to the Stars and Stripes digital platform of exclusive military news, topics of interest to veterans, special features, photos and other content, including the daily e-newspaper, job listings and history. American Legion members can subscribe for \$19.99 a year by visiting legion.strips.com and using the coupon code LEGIONSTRONG when filling out the online form.

The American Legion, in return, will be able to publish stories, social media messages and provide information about programs and services in Stars and Stripes throughout the next year in editorial, social media and advertising spaces. Stars and Stripes has a daily audience of over of 1 million worldwide.

On March 7, 1919, Stars and Stripes announced in its Europe editions plans for a "Liberty

League" meeting in Paris among veterans of the American Expeditionary Forces still stationed there after World War I. The meeting, March 15-17 that year, would become known as the Paris Caucus, which created The American Legion. Assigned to cover the gathering for Stars and Stripes was Pvt. Harold W. Ross, who would find himself serving on the Legion's original Committee on Constitution. Ross later worked as an editor for The American Legion Magazine before co-founding The New Yorker magazine in 1925, where he was editor-in-chief for the rest of his life.

"The American Legion has had a long and historic relationship with Stars and Stripes over the years," American Legion Media & Communications Commission Chairman Walter Ivie said. "This renewed relationship represents a confluence of long-trusted brands that offer much for each other's media audiences. We look forward to sharing our stories of service with foreign-deployed troops. We also certainly look forward to having the kind of top-quality journalism Stars and Stripes has been producing since the Civil War in our digital and social media platforms. Stars and Stripes is, and always has been, the gold standard of fair and accurate military coverage."

Legislative Day At The State Capitol

January 22, 2020 - The Iowa Commission of Veterans Affairs invites all The American Legion Family to join us for the annual Veterans Day at the Capitol. You will have an opportunity to meet with your elected officials and discuss key issues affecting our Iowa veterans. A number of veteran-related organizations will be available to make you more aware of the services that they provide. Hope to see you there!

9:00 am - American Legion Family Briefing - Department Headquarters

9:00 - 10:00 - Visit vendor tables - Capitol Rotunda - First Floor

10:00 - 10:30 - Veterans Day Program - Capitol Rotunda - First Floor

10:30 - Locate your elected officials to discuss legislative initiatives

Noon - Depart Capitol

As information is made available, it will be updated on the Department's website: <https://www.ialegion.org/legislative>.

Find American Legion of Iowa Program Information at www.ialegion.org

High School Oratorical Contest

www.ialegion.org/oratorical

The Department Finals will be held Sunday, February 16, 2020 in Des Moines during Mid-Winter Conference. The Department Finalist will advance to the National Contest April 17-19, 2020. Each contest champion will have the opportunity to receive a scholarship.

Completion dates for the contest

are as follows:

Local Contests must be completed by December 8, 2019

County Contests must be completed by January 5, 2020

District Contests must be completed by January 19, 2020

Area Contests must be completed by February 2, 2020

For more information regarding the contest, rules & regulations, applications, dates and deadlines, visit the Department Website.

District Oratorical Contests

www.ialegion.org/oratorical

District 1: January 12, 2020 (1 PM)

Bethany Lutheran Church - 235 S 2nd St, West Branch, IA 52358

Contact - Richard Stoltenberg (563) 284-6075 or rstoltenberg47@gmail.com

District 2: January 12, 2020 (1 PM)

Veterans Memorial Coliseum - 50 2nd Ave Bridge, Cedar Rapids, IA 52401

Contact - Ron Tyne (319) 431-4152 or r_j_tyne@msn.com

District 3: January 12, 2020 (1 PM) Snow Date: January 19, 2020

Nugent-Demuth American Legion Post #714, 1110 Sixth St., Gilbertville, IA 50634

Contact - Marvin Behrens (319) 269-7324 or marvbehrens@hotmail.com

District 4: January 12, 2020 (2 PM) Snow Date: January 19, 2020

Trinity Lutheran Church - 116 West Wilbur St., Hawkeye, IA 52147

Contact - Dennis Soppe (563) 379-1397 or soppedj@hotmail.com

District 5: January 5, 2020 (2 PM) Snow Date: January 12, 2020

Oskaloosa American Legion Post #34 - 302 High Ave E, Oskaloosa, IA 52577

Contact - Floyd Proctor (641) 938-2706 or fproct1@yahoo.com

District 6: January 11, 2020 (1 PM)

Bellizzi-Macrae American Legion Post #659 - 1813 SE 1st St., Des Moines, IA 50319

Contact - Donald Swan (515) 279-4416 or swandonald@msn.com

District 7: January 5, 2020 (2 PM)

Wilson Performing Arts Center - 300 Commerce Drive, Red Oak, IA 51566

Contact - Joe Jardon (712) 370-6071 or jmwardon2747@gmail.com

District 8: January 12, 2020 (2 PM) Snow Date: January 19, 2020

Zion Lutheran Church - 1003 Church St., Gowrie, IA 50543

Contact - Marvin Carr (515) 835-9703 or marvin.carr5@gmail.com

District 9: January 12, 2020 (2 PM) Snow Date: January 19, 2020

Hartley-Melvin-Sanborn High School, 300 N 8th Ave W, Hartley, IA 51346

Contact - James Kessler (712) 330-1738

Area Oratorical Contests

*Underlined districts are hosting

Area 1 (Districts 1, 5 & 6): January 19, 2020 (2 PM)

Swisher American Legion Post #671 - 68 3rd St., Swisher, IA 52338

Contact - Richard Stoltenberg (563) 284-6075 or rstoltenberg47@gmail.com

Area 2 (Districts 2, 3 & 4): January 26, 2020 (12 PM)

Hawkeye Community College, Tama Hall - 1501 E Orange Rd, Waterloo, IA 50701

Contact - Marvin Behrens (319) 269-7324 or marvbehrens@hotmail.com

Area 3 (Districts 7, 8 & 9): January 29, 2020 (2 PM)

Wall Lake Community Center - 209 2nd St., Wall Lake, IA 51466

Contact - James Kessler (712) 330-1738

Please contact the names listed above, your District Chairman.

Bowling Tournament

www.ialegion.org/bowling

RULES - NO FEES RETURNED

After entries have been received and the dates assigned by the tournament secretary are not refused by the team or individual entrant prior to preparation of the schedule, no fees shall be returned. Likewise the conditions under which entries are accepted cannot be changed or modified after the tournament starts. This includes entry fee charges and the rules for governing the competition.

SCHEDULE POSITION

All entrants will bowl in the order listed on the entry blank. All substitutions should be made 30 minutes prior to squad times. Due to automatic scoring, all subs will bowl in the positions of the person they are replacing.

TARDY PLAYERS

Bowling shall begin in accordance with the previously arranged schedule. Any player or team arriving late shall begin play starting in the frame in which they arrive at their lanes ready to bowl, assuming zeros for any and all missed frames. There will be NO CATCH up. If a team refuses to start because a full line-up is not present, they shall forfeit all games which they decline to start at the direction of the tournament management, based on the discretion of the tournament management. There are no provisions for blind or vacancy scores, and a bowler must bowl with and on the same lanes and at the same time his/her team bowls.

STRICT COMPLIANCE WITH ALL RULES

This tournament and the teams and individuals competing herein must conduct and play all their games in strict compliance with the rules and regulations governing such games as adopted by USBC. All team captains and bowlers should acquaint themselves with USBC RULE 319 A RULE 18 "ALTERING SURFACE" - ALTERING THE SURFACE OF A BOWLING BALL BY USE OF ABRASIVES WHILE BOWLING IN SANCTIONED COMPETITION IS PROHIBITED. All bowling balls so altered must be removed from use.

TOURNAMENT DATES

March 28/29; April 4/5, 18/19

TEAM EVENT

Saturdays at 12 PM - 3 PM

SINGLES / DOUBLES

Sundays at 9 AM - 1 PM

CAPTAINS - PLEASE KEEP THIS FOR YOUR REFERENCE

The tournament shall be conducted on a handicap basis. The handicap shall be 90 of the difference between the bowlers average and 230. Each individual bowler shall be responsible for the correctness

of his/her average listed on this entry form.

USBC RULE 319a

All bowlers must use their highest yearbook (21 games or more) average from the 2016-2017 season. If a bowler has no 2016-2017 yearbook average, they may use the current highest 21 game sanctioned average, as of March 2, 2016.

ALL BOWLERS MUST BE ABLE TO HAVE THEIR AVERAGE VERIFIED BY THEIR BOWLING ASSOCIATION OFFICER. ALL BOWLERS USING ANY AVERAGE OTHER THAN THE 2016-17 YEARBOOK AVERAGE MUST SEND VERIFICATION ALONG WITH THE ENTRY, INCLUDING LOCAL ASSOCIATION NAME.

If no established USBC Average, averages will be assigned as follows: Male bowlers will use a 170 average, 70 yrs + -150, Female bowlers will use a 140 average. IF THE AGE OF THE BOWLERS IS NOT LISTED ON THE ENTRY - THE HIGHEST AVERAGE WILL BE USED.

CAPTAINS will inform their bowlers about USBC 319A(2), pertaining to the 10 pins or more increase in average and Rule 319-D pertaining to reporting of tournaments prize winnings. THESE RULES ARE APPLICABLE AS OF THE TIME OF BOWLING. If there is an average adjustment needed, please notify the tournament officials upon arrival, or any time up until the end of the entrants first game of tournament competition.

IMPORTANT: IN ALL CASES, it shall be each bowlers responsibility to verify the accuracy of the reported average. If the submitted average is lower than the actual average, the bowler's scores will be disqualified. If the entering average is reported higher than that of the actual average, standings and prize winnings will be based on the highest average.

ALL BOWLERS WHO MEET THE CRITERIA OF USBC RULE 319-E WILL BE REQUIRED TO ADJUST HIS/HER AVERAGE ACCORDINGLY.

PHONE RESERVATIONS WILL BE HELD UNTIL March 1, 2020.

ALL ENTRIES CLOSE ON March 15, 2020

QUESTIONS - CALL:

Jerry Becker (563) 920-0194

skbecker@yousq.net

Download a copy of the tournament rules and application on www.ialegion.org/bowling.

Continued from Adjutant's Article

Robin & John Derner

Ken and Dave taught me two important principles from the very beginning. They live by these principles and I aspire to do the same.

1. Never to anything to embarrass The American Legion.

2. Whenever there is a decision to be made, always ask, "What is best for The American Legion?"

If we conduct ourselves based on these two basic principles, we will seldom go wrong.

I have always been able to count on Dave and Ken for their leadership, their guidance, their counsel and their friendship. Even at those times when we did not agree, there has always been mutual respect and friendship. Because even though we do not always agree on how to get there, we still agree on those guiding principles.

And those times when I failed to live by those guiding principles, that is when their leadership has been the most evident. Because they helped me to learn from my mistakes and they have never given up on me.

I have the greatest respect for these two men. And that respect is not because of the positions they have

held, but because of the leadership they possess.

I would also like to recognize my fellow department adjutants, both past and present. I have learned from those who have been in the position for decades and from those who have only been around a few months. We learn from each other by sharing both our triumphs and our failures. We understand each other better than anyone else can and I thank them for the inspiration and friendship.

I would also like to thank our department staff, both past and present. In both the Headquarters Office and the Service Office they keep our organization moving forward and provide outstanding service and support to the veterans of Iowa and The American Legion. It is through their dedication and service that I have been able to continue in this position.

For my theme as King, I chose "Field of Dreams" and the motto, "If We Build It, They Will Come." Obviously, my theme is tied to Iowa by the famous movie. And those of you that have marched with Iowa in a National Convention parade know how much The American Legion of Iowa loves our corn.

But I also think the theme ties together well with the American Legion and where we are today. We are coming to the end of our year celebrating a century of service to our veterans, our youth and our communities. And like in the movie, we are nostalgic about our past.

But we are also optimistic about the future. National Commander Bill Oxford's motto of "A Foundation for the Future" speaks to that. Our historic and accomplished past is the foundation upon which we will build and grow The American Legion.

"IF WE BUILD IT, THEY WILL COME."

I have always believed the heart of our organization is the post and its members. It is the post, with which our members most closely identify. It is at the post where our programs are executed and touch the lives of those we serve. And our communities and the public in general judge The American Legion by what their local post is doing. It is the post and its members

which create the image of The American Legion.

I believe the success and future of our organization is dependent on strong American Legion posts. To have strong posts and a strong American Legion, we must begin by developing leadership at the post level. Those leaders will eventually become the leaders at the county, district, department and national levels.

I believe we should invest in our infrastructure by remodeling existing post homes and building new post homes. Our posts need to be centerpieces of our communities, not eyesores. They portray as much an image of our organization as our members and our programs.

Posts need to be active in our communities. We must openly conduct our programs for the betterment of our veterans, our youth and our communities and they must see what we do.

When we build stronger posts, the members will come. And to steal a line from the movie, "We remind them of all that once was good – and could be again."

The greatest thing about The American Legion is our members. I thank you for your friendship. I thank you for your service. And I thank you for your leadership. Long live the King!



Adjutant Derner's program photo

PDC Rally, Unity and Colflesh Trophies

On Saturday, November 23rd, members of the The American Legion of Iowa Family showed their enthusiasm at the annual Past District Commander's Membership Rally, hosted by Van Meter American Legion Post #403. The Unity Award is given to the District with the highest percentage of combined membership

of the Legion, Auxiliary and the SAL: 6th District Commander Pat "Doc" Phillips, 6th District Auxiliary President Susan Thompson and 6th District SAL Advisor Randy Freel. Congrats!

The Robert W. Colflesh Trophy, awarded to District in first place and post with the highest percentage of membership by Veterans Day went to Manilla Post #132 in District 8. Congrats!

Winners will be presented their awards at Mid-Winter.



Commemorative 100th Anniversary Coins

The commemorative 100th Anniversary Coins will no longer be available after December 31, 2019. Get yours before they are gone. At the beginning of next year, the US Mint will melt any remaining coins. The 100th anniversary of the The American Legion on March 15, 1919, is commemorated with these coins. Join us in celebrating The American Legion's 100 years of service! Order yours at <https://catalog.usmint.gov>.



Member Benefits - LIT & USAA

There are many benefits for belonging to The American Legion Family besides camaraderie. American Legion members are eligible for discounts from various organizations and vendors. To learn more, visit: <https://www.legion.org/benefits>.

In addition, members receive free Accidental Death & Dismemberment coverage for anyone enrolled. It is free but you must enroll. The Legionnaires Insurance Trust goes beyond this benefit to offer you policies for all your needs in life. Contact the Department Adjutant or www.thelit.com for more information.

USAA and The American Legion have also teamed up to offer you financial services and benefits. Call 1-877-699-2654.