



THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF IOWA IOWA LEGIONNAIRE & Auxiliary Communiqué

An Official Publication of The American Legion, Department of Iowa: June 2020

The Iowa Legionnaire and Communiqué
720 Lyon Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50309

COVID-19 & The Department of Iowa

History repeated itself with a health crisis and nations found themselves united against an unseen common enemy, COVID-19. The global pandemic known as Coronavirus Disease 2019 has made life as we knew it dramatically different. In lieu of the evolving COVID-19 government proclamations, restrictions and recommendations, the Department of Iowa needed to respond. Several meetings were conducted through teleconferencing platforms, and the Department Executive Committee, with consultations from other state leadership commissions and committees, as well as National commission and committees, began postponing and cancelling state activities. All nine districts responded similarly with respect to spring conferences, other regular meetings, and of course the local post meeting.

The current state of affairs continues to challenge us all as individuals and an organization, however, it has not halted life, just slowed it down. As we move forward into what will become a new normal, we encourage you all to continue to stay safe, well and keep your wits about you as we do life together.

We wish to keep you updated as to the changes the Department of Iowa has made thus far in this publication. For those of you who have adapted to technology, updates are posted more frequently through our Department website, Facebook, and the bimonthly electronic newsletter. We encourage you to visit the website and utilize its function as well as follow the Department of Iowa on Facebook. You can also sign up for the electronic newsletter through the website. Click on yellow button labeled "Subscribe" to sign up. Here are a handful of major changes within The American Legion both at the state and national level that have occurred due to COVID-19.

Department Convention: By unanimous vote of the

Department Executive Committee on May 2, the 2020 Department Convention, the commission and committee meetings preceding that convention, the Department Executive Committee meeting following that convention and the Color Guard competition during that convention have all been cancelled. The Holiday Inn will cancel all room reservations associated with the convention. There is no need for individuals to call and cancel rooms.

As a result of the cancellation of the convention, there will not be an election of Department officers. Also normally a vote of the convention delegates would be taken to determine the site for the 2020 convention. The resolution cancelling the convention specified that the Department Officers, both elected and appointed, would carry over for the 2020-2021 year. The Department Executive Committee also determined that the 2022 convention would be held at the Airport Holiday Inn in Des Moines with suggested dates of July 7-10, 2022.

Additionally all personnel appointed to the Department commissions and committees will carry over for the 2020-2021 year. Membership contests for the 2020 membership year will conclude on June 20, 2020. The resolution in its entirety that was brought before the committee may be found online www.ialegion.org.

National Convention: The National Executive Committee, by passing Resolution #3, has cancelled the 2020 National Convention scheduled for August 28-September 3 in Louisville, Kentucky. The 2026 National Convention will be awarded to Louisville, KY as a result. While the national resolution did not specifically state this, all national American Legion meetings up to September 30, 2020 have been cancelled. This includes but is not limited to:

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Our Future: Renewals, Membership

By Bill Oxford, National Commander

The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted millions of lives across the nation. Home sheltering and social distancing requirements in nearly every state have affected the way American Legion posts do business, but they have not affected the way Legionnaires fulfill their duties to serve, as the organization's constitutional preamble declares, "through individual obligation to community, state and nation."

In recent weeks, we have all seen how important The American Legion is in a time of crisis. Blood drives, Buddy Checks, mask distributions, meal deliveries, school supplies for kids suddenly



home-schooled by parents and hundreds of acts of gratitude to health-care workers and other unsung heroes have depended on our volunteers, as well as funds that come from membership dues.

This does not happen without an incredible membership of dedicated military veterans and their families who know what it takes to succeed in a life-and-death mission.

My sincere appreciation goes to all Legionnaires who have stepped up to serve in a myriad of ways through the crisis. And I ask that those who have not yet renewed their American Legion memberships to do so now, at this time of urgency. It will take time for our local posts to return to their normal business activities, so membership renewal is extremely important right now.

Renewals give us the privilege of keeping up our services functioning, no matter how circumstances change. While new members help us expand our outreach and allow us to serve more people who need our help.

Secure, convenient online membership renewal can be completed online at www.legion.org/renew. All honorably discharged veterans who have served since Dec. 7, 1941, are now eligible to join The American Legion and can do so safely and easily at www.legion.org/join.

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DEADLINES & DATES

Due to current state of affairs with COVID-19, there have been changes and cancellations. Our deadlines and dates are subject to change based upon national and state guidelines. Please visit our website for an updated calendar of events.

June 6
Membership Budget Meeting
June 15
CPRs Due
June 21-26
Boys State - Cancelled
June 15
Consolidated Post Reports Due
Legionnaire of Year Nominations Due
June 19
Finance Commission Meeting
June 20
DEC Meeting
June 21
Father's Day
July 3
Dept. Offices Closed
July 4
Independence Day
July 9-12
Department Convention - Cancelled
August 7
Dept. Leadership School District Submissions Due
August 14
Dept. Leadership School Individual Applications Due



We're on Facebook!
[@iowalegion](https://www.facebook.com/iowalegion)

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Department Commander

James B. Kessler

Greetings, as I write this article to you, I hope this finds you all healthy and

feeling good and you have kept busy as we have self-isolated ourselves during this COVID-19 pandemic that is sweeping our nation. I realize this has not been an easy time for any of us, for your Department Commander, it has well restricted my travels, in the process I have had to reshape my way of thinking and planning. So, my time has been spent on the phone making contacts with National Guard armory's and making buddy phone calls. Those phone calls have been uplifting not only to me but to those who I called just to greet and see how they were doing. They were very appreciative of my phone call and to hear a voice of someone who shared a genuine interest in how they were doing and to let them know their American Legion post shares the concern of how they were doing. Throughout all this pandemic and isolation, The American Legion Department Executive Committee plus other Department committees have met by conference calls or by zoom conferencing. You have read in my other article I have had the challenge becoming somewhat technology wise, I am grateful I challenged myself and believed in myself that I could do things electronically with the computer. No doubt the zoom teleconferencing has been a blessing for your Department Executive Committee to be able to meet and conduct business. The hardest part of our meetings was for The D.E.C. to cancel The Department Convention being one of the major highlights of The American Legion Family. With that in mind all Department Officers, Department Commission, and Committee chairs, we remain the same for another year unless one chooses to resign. I know there will be other articles written about the cancellation of Department Convention so I will end on that part.

As you know my goal for the year is to be 100% in membership by June 20th. We are almost there however the last 7% is going to be the toughest to get and time is counting down, so I'm asking you if you have not paid your 2020 membership to your American Legion Post, I'm asking you to please do that now. As of May 8th, Department wide, your membership was at 93.31% just a hair over the 7% which is needed to realize 100% goal, that is approximately 928 memberships which have not been renewed for this 2020 membership year. Each report shows we are always behind last year. What is the problem it can't be deaths because we haven't lost that number, it simply those who need to be contacted to renew their membership and in doing so we need to ask why they haven't and what the reason being? When the member says I do not get anything out of my membership, why should I renew, who will miss me they say. Who will miss you?!! Every American Legion Member of an American Legion Post, County, District, Department and The National American Legion Organization. Those are ones who will miss you. Your membership is a voice, a vote, a game changer in your state's capital and in Washington DC. on issues concerning the benefits every deserving Veteran needs and should have. Your membership makes the American Legion voice strong and loud as we lobby and testify before The State House of Representatives, Senators and both houses in your Nation's Capital. The voice of your membership helps ensure we maintain and keep our Veterans Affairs Health Care Strong, yes, every membership is a number that counts. Also, each membership helps ensure The American Legion Service Office in the Iowa Federal Building is there when you need help in securing a medical claim or disability that comes from your time in the service doing what was asked of you.



Department Adjutant

John A. Derner

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the lives of us all. We have experienced challenges of varying degrees as a result of this outbreak and we find ourselves striving to return to some sense of normalcy.

A few of weeks ago, I thought I was having a bad day. I had issues with work, complications at home, and difficulties with my family. I simply felt overwhelmed by all the disruption in my life.

Whenever I think I am having a bad day, I often reflect on the experiences of an acquaintance of mine, Larry Spencer. I met Larry through his advocacy for veterans in Iowa. He is a Navy veteran who served from 1963-1985, retiring at the rank of Commander (O5).

On February 18, 1966 Larry was forced to eject from an aircraft over North Vietnam and was taken Prisoner of War. After spending 2,552 days in captivity, just shy of 7 years, he was released during Operation Homecoming on February 12, 1973.

Larry once spoke at one of our American Legion Department Leadership Schools. During his presentation he spoke of the mental and physical brutalities he and his fellow POWs endured. Near the end of the presentation, he made a statement which has stuck with me since.

After describing the events on the day of his release, he proclaimed that he has never had a bad day since. Some were better than others, but he never had a bad day since his captivity. And when I think I am having a bad day, those words from Larry Spencer help me put my own situation into perspective.

So, there I was, doing dishes in my home and feeling sorry for myself, when I realized that my bad day wasn't so bad after all. I could hear my three sons rough housing in the living room, I had just finished a good meal, and "What a Wonderful World" by Louis Armstrong came on the radio, almost as if on cue. I understood that compared to many, I had a pretty good day. It helped me to recognize all the joy and happiness in my life and all the blessings I have.

And then, as it often does, the rough housing by my boys in the living room turned into a fight. Had I still been in the mindset that it was a bad day, that probably would have made it worse. Instead, I found happiness in the fact that they are healthy enough to fight with each other, and faith that when it comes down to it, they will fight for each other.

Thanks to Larry Spencer and Louis Armstrong, I knew that my day wasn't so bad, and it still is a wonderful world. But it also reminded me that during this time, there are so many people in a much worse situation than my own.

There are many people in our country and in our own American Legion Family who are suffering. Some are unable to work and are struggling financially. Others are sick and are isolated from family and friends. Some have even died or have lost a loved one.

Some American Legion posts are suffering financially. We have been unable to execute many of our programs or serve our communities as we have in the past. Our members have been unable to gather and share the camaraderie that many of us so much enjoy and need. Sometimes we feel overwhelmed, frustrated and lonely.

It is at times like this, when our work can be the most important. Many of our American Legion posts, American Legion Auxiliary units, Sons of The American Legion squadrons, and American Legion Riders chapters are...

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Article continued on next page



National Executive Committeeman Jerry Sebben

Greetings fellow Legionnaires,

This is normally the time I would congratulate all the new officers who have stepped up and taken on leadership positions at the Department and District levels. As you know, with the cancellation of Department Convention, most officers will retain their positions for another year. So, congratulations. You get another year to continue the great things you are doing for our veterans and families.

As you know by now all meetings at the National level have been cancelled or are being conducted via telecom communication. The National Executive Committee is receiving communication via e-mail

and other forms. As for any Resolutions needing a vote such as the resolution calling for the cancellation of our National Convention in August we return our vote via this type of communication. The National Commander and National Adjutant can have our vote in as little as 24 hours. So, any resolution or emergency action that requires National Executive Committee action can be performed in a very short time.

Our Washington DC office is still working The American Legion Legislative agenda for the 116th Congress that was set in March of this year at our Washington Conference. With the Virus hitting our country shortly afterward, most veterans' issues have been difficult to address. They continue to communicate with our Legislators about veteran issues when possible.

The coronavirus has caused our American Legion

Family to undergo difficult times. Many of our programs have been forced to cancel. Many of our meetings are conducted by Zoom or other types of communication. I want to congratulate Commander Kessler and his leadership team during this most difficult time. Department Adjutant John and his staff, including the service office, have done an outstanding job of keeping the Department running and the Legionnaires of Iowa informed. WELL DONE

BUDDY CHECK. With all that is going on, checking on our fellow Legionnaires is more important than ever. Many do not have the network most of us have, nor have families living close, or just someone to talk to. I challenge you all to call a post member or send a card letting them know you are thinking of them during these difficult times.

For God and Country,
Jerry D Sebben



IMAGE
COMING
SOON

Department Service Officer Shane Pankonen

Ever wondered what it would cost to modify your home? The Department of Veterans Affairs has programs to assist in these

programs.

The Specially Adaptive Housing (SAH) is a program to assist veterans and service members with qualifying service connected disabilities. These programs can help you purchase, build, or adapt a home to meet the lifestyle needs of the veteran or service member.

This SAH grant can be used to make your home more adaptive for enter and exit or your home, accessibility throughout the veteran's home.

Adaptations available are accessible to enter and exit the home, lower counter tops, lowered sinks, to make the bathroom completely wheelchair accessible, and widened doorways.

The veteran or service member must meet one or more of the eligibility conditions:

1. Loss or use of both lower extremities.
2. Blindness in both eyes.
3. Severe injury from a burn.
4. Loss of use of both upper extremities at or above the elbows.

Another type of grant the veteran or service member may be eligible for is the Specially Housing Adaptation Grant (SHA). This grant is used to increase access and mobility to accommodate his or her disability. This program helps assist the veteran.

The veteran or service member must meet one or more of the eligibility conditions:

1. Blindness in both eyes with 20/200 visual acuity.
2. Functional loss or loss of use of both hands, and extremities below the elbow.
3. Severe injury from a burn.

To seek disable housing grants to apply by submitting VA Form 26-4555 Specially Adaptive Housing or Special Adaptive Grant submit this to the VA or visit www.benefits.va.gov/homeloans/adaptedhousing.asp.

If you have any questions about these benefits you may contact a Paralyzed Veterans of America National Service Officer and we will be glad to assist you. Also, I may be contacted directly at 515-323-7544 for questions regarding this benefit or any VA benefits once the Federal Building has reopened.

Truly Grateful for your support of the Service Office and the Staff,
Shane Pankonen



Sons of The American Legion Detachment Commander Mike Monserud

It appears 2020 is going to see how much we can handle, adapt, and overcome. With the closure of your home posts, we must look at other ways we can continue to support our local communities. This may include having takeout, or doing Buddy Checks, or something as simple as putting flags up to show your community you are still there.

The Detachment Officers have noticed that the Squadrons have pulled together during this troubled

time and have brought forth a solution to try and help members of the Squadrons who may need some help with dues. There is a letter that is being sent to all Squadrons detailing the criteria. The Detachment will pay the National Dues, waive the Detachment Dues, and it's up to the Squadron to submit names per the instructions to be eligible to have their 2019-2020 membership taken care of. I encourage all Squadrons to take advantage of this opportunity to show members who have supported this great organization, that we can step up in times when they need help. This is a onetime offer, and currently there are no plans to do this next year. This is how we can show them that we appreciate the years you helped

support the Sons, and the ones who came before you, and now it is our turn.

As I write this, there was news of more things that are being allowed to reopen. I want you to see how you can help your community once you are able. I want you to be safe and do what you need to do to stay safe but continue supporting our veterans.

So, in closing I want you to take advantage of the Stimulus Membership submitted by the DEC, and let's finish out our year on a high note, and then prepare ourselves for another year of what appears to be a different culture.

Commander Mike

Adjutant's article continued from page 2

...finding ways to continue their service to the community and to our veterans.

Posts found creative ways to honor our fallen on Memorial Day. Others are providing services such as grocery delivery to those most vulnerable in their communities. Many are conducting Buddy Checks to check on the wellbeing of their members. Our members are making protective masks for those who need them. They are making donations to hospitals and nursing homes, including the Iowa Veterans Home.

Because in a time of crisis, as veterans we are used to standing up and making a difference. As veterans, many of us have been through difficult circumstances. And most of us have witnessed others in a much worse situation than our own. To those of you who are suffering as a result of the pandemic, I hope you can find the resources and the strength to get through these difficult times. I also hope that during this period of uncertainty, you continue to recognize the good in your life and find the faith to get you through. Try to find some happiness in each day, even if it is three boys fighting with each other.

Consolidated Post Reports

by Daniel S. Wheeler, National Adjutant

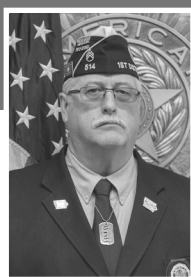
The July 1 national target date for the Consolidated Post Report (CPR) is fast approaching. Although the national convention has been cancelled, it is still the National Commander's goal to have CPR submissions at 100%. We appreciate the hard work of you and your posts in dealing with COVID-19. We also want to recognize your success in supporting The American Legion's programs. National Commander Oxford wants every post to receive credit for their daily community

activities in support of veterans and their families. The CPR is an important gauge of efforts within your departments.

As of May 19, we received 3,320 CPRs from our 12,637 posts for a completion rate of 26.15%. Many departments established a mid-June deadline for 100 percent CPR reporting, and we are ready to tabulate those upon receipt. The Department of Iowa has a deadline of June 15, 2020.

An online fillable form is located at: www.ialegion.org/cpr for posts that wish to complete and mail (or fax) the CPR to department. The CPR may also be submitted via myLegion.org.

Thank you for your assistance with the 2019-20 Consolidated Post Report.

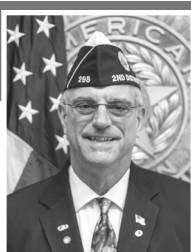


1st District Commander Steve Colcord

Here we are in May. There are a lot of cancellations and postponed spring conferences due to COVID-19 going around which has a lot of us home bound. Traveling to different posts has come to a halt for right now. First district spring conference was cancelled due to the virus and also

the National Guard needed their property back to start helping with deliveries. Legion business is very slow so we are going to try and get together when we can to have a D.E.C. meeting to conduct elections of new officers and leadership school attendees and other important business. I can hardly wait to hear that this virus is gone and everyone is safe and healthy to where I can back out and travel around the posts once again. I really miss visiting the posts in my district. To all of my post commanders please keep sending in renewals and also your consolidated post reports and

your officer reports so we can get an updated officer's report. In the district this is from the April update we are continuing doing a great job on membership but we can get better. For details on cancellations throughout our organization, visit the Department's Website. I just want to shout out to my district officers on a great job they have been doing this past year. Yes it is almost over but what a great trip we all had. Thank you all very much for a great year. Please stay Healthy and well. First District you Rock.



2nd District Commander Roger Norfolk

Members of the Second District Family, I pray you have stayed safe and been well in these trying times. I'm sure you are aware of all the Legion events that have been cancelled. It will take great effort to continue with your programs this year. You have done well overall in memberships, but unless we all hit 100%, the Legion will be smaller than it was last year, again. If you have members financially strapped by the COVID 19 virus, consider asking post members, or external sources, to pay their dues for the year.

By the time this is printed, our spring conference will have been conducted virtually, using computer software. With posts shut down, I feel the word is not getting to all our members and attendance may be low. Virtual meetings are the wave of the future as it saves time and money, and keeps social distancing to curb disease transfer. You are able to join these meetings by computer / tablets, smart phones or just call in from a telephone to be a part of the business decisions of the district. I hope you attended the 16 May meeting. We plan to record it and post it online for those not able to attend.

On 8 February we held the first of three training sessions. It was held in Blue Grass and was well attended. Then, the virus hit and the other two

became too risky to do. The focus is now shifted to do the training virtually, so no travel will be required nor facility needed. This effort will come back into focus soon. We will continue moving forward and overcome obstacles.

I want to emphasize the Buddy Checks program. Check on the friends you do not hear from frequently, those with health or finance issues, and don't forget widows or widowers who may struggle as we struggle in our social isolation.

Even in these trying times, it is good to be a part of the American Legion Family.

For God and Country,
Roger Norfolk



3rd District Commander Dan Huntley

Legionnaires-

I hope this finds you well. Odd times we are living through right now. As we move forward our organization has an incredible responsibility to not only our members, but also our nation. Beyond all that we do for our Veterans, we must do equally in everyone of our communities.

Our youth have been influenced by technology almost 100% over the last few months. We must

ensure that we are investing our effort in expanding our youth programs. We need to adapt to the landscape.

The Spring Conference has been officially cancelled. The DEC took the appropriate measure to conduct an election of officers. A copy of the By-Laws may be found on our District Website. <https://ialegion3rddistrict.org/>

I can't thank this District enough for giving me the chance to serve you. It's been a very long 365 days.

Congratulations to Dave Travis of Shellsburg on being elected as our 2020-2021 Commander and to our Vice Commanders Jeff Large of Tama, Rick Calhoun of La Port City, and Richard Echleberger of Dows. I

look forward to seeing your influences.

As I depart, I call on our membership to do more. Get involved. Those under the age 50, take on responsibility for your communities' success. Take small bites and know when to say no. Members over 50, continue to embrace the education of the next generation. Ask yourself two things. 1. How can I affect the American Legion? 2. How do I want to be remembered?

I thank you and look forward to continuing to serve all of you in some fashion moving forward.

Semper Fi
Dan Huntley



4th District Commander Dan Boberg

Well, here we are in another war. This one is a quite a bit different than we are accustomed to, without weapons or ammunition. This one is becoming a real challenge. I hope you all are doing social distancing and wearing a mask when inside. We could be in this for a while. We are fortunate in District Four, with 12 counties that are

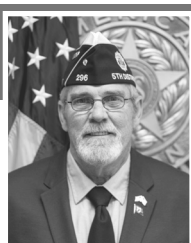
not as populated as other places. Don't let your guard down, people are still traveling.

It looks like we could have meetings as long as we keep it at 10 people. Those that do not feel comfortable with that, should have the information about the meeting passed onto them by a fellow member. There is also the Free Tele Conferencing. If you are not familiar with it, let me or your District Vice Commander know. It is a very easy item that can be used. Don't let this COVID-19 defeat us by keeping us apart. Remember we are all in this together. Let us

reach out and help each other and your friends and neighbors in your communities. This is a time to show people what your Legion Post is all about and the things they can do. Be proud and set a good example.

Don't forget your Commander and Vice Commanders are here for you. Call us and leave a message.

Commander Dan Boberg (563)419-0459
Vice Commander Fritz Kies (319)493-1848
Vice Commander Brandon Parcel (641)832-9502
Vice Commander Ron Steege (319)939-1662



5th District Commander Randy Johnson

Hello District 5 Legion Family,

This year is certainly one for the History books. National Convention has been cancelled, the Department Convention has been cancelled, and staying in line with National and Department Leadership in regards to mandated social guidelines, I'm sad to say our Fifth District Conference has been cancelled as well. With that being said, Department, Detachment, and District Officers and Staff will stay in place until the Department Convention next Summer. I'm looking at this situation as an extension of our

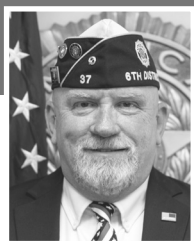
term, an opportunity to extend our 2020 goals, and make a not-so-good situation better as our District Legion Family continues to grow into 2021.

2020 has been a whirlwind. I've had the opportunity to visit almost half our Posts, attend Department and National level meetings and conferences, meet great Legionnaires, and gain a better understanding for overall Legion Operations. I plan to take what I've learned this year and carry it in to 2021. I've learned we need to keep it simple. By focusing on our 4-pillars, we can all get back to basics and do for our Veterans, their families, our communities, State and Nation that we've done for the past 101 years. We need to do what we can at the Post level and not over extend, and keep our goals realistic and attainable. Knowing our

individual Legionnaires are the backbone of our Posts will make us all better understand how important it is to work our Membership renewals starting day one, and understand by retaining and growing one arm of the Legion Family grows another. Out of a 2020 whirlwind came momentum. Let's keep it going and move into 2021 with enthusiasm.

It's going to be my honor to continue as your District Commander. I look forward to continuing our District relationship with the other eight Districts, working with Department Leadership and Staff, and especially having yet another opportunity to work with all the great Posts out there in District 5. For God and Country.

Randy Johnson



6th District Commander Pat Phillips

Hello Fellow Legionnaires,

What a time we live in today. Despite all of the challenges we have had to face due to COVID 19, our District continues to move forward

supporting Veterans throughout the 6th District. I am wholly impressed with the work and effort put out at the Post level keeping your members engaged and helping in a time of need.

The first area of concern is regarding Membership. As of today, the 6th District is in 1st Place in the Department with 97.31% of goal. We only need 123 additional renewals, new members or 729th to make 100%. That is less than 3 members per post in our District. We can do this together. STOP THE SLIDE! Secondly, I would like to remind every Post that CPRs are due next month. This is our tool to show Congress and the Nation what the American Legion does for our Veterans, Communities and Families. If you have any questions on how to do this either written or online, let me know.

Lastly, I want you to know that your District

Executive Committee will be meeting in the near future to determine the feasibility of having a virtual 6th District Spring Conference using ZOOM. Today I attended the 2nd District Spring Conference on ZOOM as a guest and was very impressed on how much they accomplished remotely. More details to come.

Also, please find a way to help commemorate those that gave all this coming Memorial Day. Either personally, or as a Post. There are ever changing guidelines on how to accomplish this. Stay current and Stay Safe!

For God and Country,
Doc



7th District Commander Gary Whipple

My Fellow Legionnaires,

The first thing I would like to do is introduce myself, I am Gary Whipple. I was appointed 7th District Commander on April 11,

2020. Our current Commander Brett Martin moved to Oklahoma, so I was appointed to finish his term. I am a 17year Legion member. At the post level I have held

all offices except Service Officer and Chaplain. In the District level I have been zone 6 Vice Commander and Historian.

This quarter has been very trying for everyone. Our spring district conference was cancelled due to Covid 19. When I was appointed Commander, we had to conduct the Executive Committee meeting via a conference call.

I have big shoes to fill as Brett Martin did a wonderful job as our District Commander. I really hated to see him go, but family comes first. I will do my best to

continue what Brett started for the 7th District.

Now is the time for all of us to do buddy checks by phone calls. We need to get the non-renewal memberships by making phone calls and sending letters. Use safe distancing, no knocking on doors.

I look forward to hearing from the 7th District legion members.

For God and Country,
Gary Whipple



8th District Commander Tom Ryan

COVID-19. That is the word heard around the world! It alone has conjured up numerous protocols and life style changes more than any other word, in one fell swoop.

How does this affect Legionnaires? From the National level to individual posts, we have had to cancel or indefinitely postpone any and or all activities since March. However, we are not down for the count as yet. Department of Iowa and all of its 9 Districts are holding regular business meetings through teleconferencing. Isn't technology wonderful? District 8 will be getting on board soon, to not only address business meetings for the District, but to extend a format to the individual post. I'm an old codger and I have to admit that, the only thing constant in life is change! I may not be able to understand computers and software programs, but I know enough to assist

with the new technologies for our future generations to come. This virus has opened the door to a different way of communication, especially when one is home bound and the work still needs to be done.

By the time this article comes out, many posts have performed their annual Memorial Day salute to our fallen Comrades. Thank you for keeping the social distancing with the grave side flag presentations and abbreviated version of the memorial service; at the cemeteries. There were other activities such as annual BBQs that had challenges as well. So, a take off of a drive thru window became a curbside service. Keeping the restaurant style restrictions in place and legal. We have had posts and squadrons deliver groceries, medications and mail to the shut-ins. The list goes on, to show not only compassion to the Veterans but to the community as a whole.

In Emmet County there is a newly revised Post #91. Now what is so special about this post is that they have only pulled themselves back together in the last 2 years, and have done some amazing work in a short period of time. They attend at least 5 to 6 parades a

year in or near Estherville. In conjunction with the local Elk Lodge members, VFW, and VFW Aux., they meet 3 times a week to make COVID-19 masks and distribute them out free of charge to anyone in the community. A Ruck Sack Walk generates money for their scholarship program. Tentatively, a special program (provided that the restrictions of COVID-19 are lifted) for the National Guardsman whom will be deployed in the not so distant future. A generous outpouring to those Vets in need of food, Post #91 is a supporter the Upper Des Moines Food Bank. Many of the Department programs for the Children and the Vets are being met head-on by the members of this organization. Maurice Doyle Post # 91 is persevering in it's endeavors of staying strong in continuing it's community activities, and promoting the American Legion Legacy.

My thanks to all for the hard work performed this fiscal year.

For God and Country,
Tom Ryan



9th District Commander Cliff Ripke

Greetings District 9 Legionnaires,

This has been an interesting, if not difficult, past few months. As you may already know, COVID-19 recommendations and requirements

change almost daily. Here are a few events that are not happening. Boys State and Girls State have been

cancelled, as well as Department Convention, National Convention and Legion Baseball. Leadership School has been rescheduled for Sept. 11-13, 2020. This could also change if there is a high health risk.

Here in District 9, we are working on possible ways to hold a modified district conference to take care of business that needs to be done. I hope that the virus has not affected any of you or your families. We need to have a strong finish the rest of this year ending June 30th. If you haven't renewed your membership, do it today.

The Consolidated Post Reports are due. Be sure your post is accounted for. CPR's can be submitted through mylegion.org or send them to Department Headquarters. These reports are very important as they document what your post has one over the past year. Your post's information, along with that of other posts, is used by the National Commander and others to testify on Capitol Hill on behalf of all veterans.

I hope this finds you all in good health.

For God and Country,
Cliff Ripke

A Special Day of Remembrance

By James B. Kessler, Department Commander

The current event we are part of now, it is my hope, time is taken to pause and reflect on the special meaning Memorial Day means to each of us. June 14th is Flag

Day. Please do not let this day slide by without thinking what a special symbol this day reflects. Twenty-one days later we celebrate July 4th, Independence Day, our Nation's Birthday. More than ever we need to stop, sit down, reflect, and realize this day holds such an absolute defining meaning to The Freedoms and Rights we so enjoy, and I hope we each cherish and realize the value of this day.

Commander's article continued from Page 2

When your County Veterans Affairs director files a claim for monetary awards not only for you but for your spouse in time of your passing. The reasons listed are just a few reasons why every membership is critical, your membership is the motor in which keeps the wheels turning of the Four Pillars of The American Legion.

As I write this article we have done well with our Americanism, Children and Youth programs, Community Service Programs, our Legislative and VA Commission committees. With both of these Commissions and Committees listening to the membership talk about their needs and the problems, they are having getting the benefits they should have for the issues associated with their time in the service and in some of the hazardous conditions anyone could be in, that in time took a toll on their lungs and other issues along with type 2 diabetes, the burn pits that put out toxic fumes along with the dust and whatever else was in the air as the wind blew and blew. As this year of the American Legion Department of Iowa begins to wind down, and with the continuance of Department officers and Committee people being asked to stay in place, some have chosen to resign from some Committees or appointments, with that being said your Commander will be needing a Historian for the year 2020-2021. If you are interested in serving in one of those capacities please let your Department Commander know of your wishes, they would certainly be appreciated. I will be most happy to visit with you what each position entails, you may e-mail, call, and we will talk.

In the past legionnaire, I asked for Persian Gulf Veterans/War on Terror Veterans to let the Commander know what they foresee their priorities, needs and programs of The American Legion Department of Iowa, will be needing as these young people take the reins of the leadership of The American

Legion Department of Iowa. With the Information received from these Veterans, the leadership of the American Legion Department of Iowa will be able to start the process looking into what material will be needed to develop the programs. So when the time comes for those Veterans taking the reins to lead this great organization into the next 100 years, most items/ideas will be in place for them to continue on without having to develop the programs needed for what they had foreseen, by doing this there will be minimal disruption in the process of the American Legion continuing on. As we start the process of developing these programs listed, they will be an integral part in helping develop and have in place what they foresaw to be needed.

With the membership year of 2019-2020 coming to a close July 13th, 2020, I asked you to please remember the projects your Commander had for this year, those being the Fisher House Project, getting the Veterans off the street and into housing, both of these projects have great meaning to your Commander, and I pray we can have a successful fund raising for these projects.

The year 2019-2020 has been an exciting meaningful time for me to serve as your Department Commander. I have had excellent cooperation from all District Commanders, the members of The Department Executive Committee, Commission and Committee Chairs I asked to serve in those appointed capacities have been outstanding. As your Commander I am extremely fortunate to have been able to surround myself with people of leadership capability and the knowledge to make their committees work to the advantage of The American Legion Department of Iowa. As this being my last article for the legionnaire of 2019-2020, I would like to leave you with this thought. Never hang on to the past so tightly that your arms cannot embrace the future.

For God and Country,
James B. Kessler

TALMA Replaces NALPA

by Alan E. Schenck

Walter Ivie, Chairman, Media and Communications Commission of The American Legion announced to all media and communication supporters the National American Legion Press Association (NALPA) has been replaced by The American Legion Media Alliance (TALMA).

New members are encouraged to sign up now and will receive six months free. A \$15. membership fee insures your membership through August 31, 2021.

To join TALMA, please go to www.legion.org/talma/join. Membership

benefits includes resources, tips and other materials to promote The American Legion, post events, programs and more. According to Mr. Ivie, members will also receive a press credential and lanyard, an electronic newsletter, training and free entry into the annual national contest.

The Iowa American Legion Press Association (IALPA) is the Iowa Department's media and communications organization. All Iowa post, unit and squadron media and communication chairmen are encouraged to join. A \$3.00 membership fee supports the organization and allows entry into Iowa's media contests and other valuable Iowa media information.

Article continued on page 9

Conducting Business During COVID-19

Iowa nonprofit corporations are governed by the Revised Iowa Nonprofit Corporation Act ("Iowa Nonprofit Act"), which provides various means by which members and boards of directors are able to take action through virtual meetings and otherwise.

Virtual or Telephonic Meetings of Members

The Iowa Nonprofit Act provides that the articles of incorporation or bylaws of a nonprofit corporation may provide that an annual or regular meeting of members is not required to be held at a geographical location if the meeting is held by means of the internet or other electronic communication technology in a manner pursuant to which the members have the opportunity to read or hear the proceedings substantially concurrent with the occurrence of the proceedings, vote on matters submitted to the members, pose questions, and make comments. Iowa Code section 504.701(7). The same rule applies for special meetings of members. Iowa Code section 504.702(6). Notices of meetings may be communicated in person, by mail, other method of delivery, or by telephone, voice mail, or other electronic means. If these forms of notice are impracticable, notice may be communicated by a newspaper of general circulation in the area where published or by radio, television, or other form of public broadcast communication. When electronically transmitted, the notice needs to be sent to the member in a manner authorized by the member. Iowa Code section 504.142.

Voting of Members – Alternatives to In-Person Voting and Voting by Virtual or Telephonic Meetings

There are various ways for members to vote without attending a meeting in person or a virtual or telephonic meeting. They include voting by written ballot or proxy as well as by a written consent.

Written Ballot

Unless prohibited or limited by the articles or bylaws, any action that may be taken at any annual, regular, or special meeting of members may be taken without a meeting if the corporation delivers a written ballot to every member entitled to vote on the matter. A written ballot must (1) set forth each proposed action and (2) provide an opportunity to vote for or against each proposed action.

Approval by written ballot is valid only if the number of votes cast by ballot equals or exceeds the quorum required to be present at a meeting authorizing the action, and the number of approvals equals or exceeds the number of votes that would be required to approve the matter at a meeting at which the total number of votes cast was the same as the number of votes cast by ballot. All solicitations for votes by written ballot need to do all of the following: (1) indicate the number of responses needed to meet the quorum requirements; (2) state the percentage of approvals necessary to approve each matter other than election of directors; and (3) specify the time by which a ballot must be received by the corporation in order to be counted. Unless prohibited by the articles or bylaws, a written ballot may be delivered and a vote may be cast on that ballot by electronic transmission, including email. Iowa Code section 504.708.

Proxies

Unless the articles or bylaws of the corporation prohibit or limit proxy voting, a member or the member's agent or attorney in fact may appoint a proxy to vote or otherwise act for the member by signing an appointment form or by an electronic transmission (such as email). Iowa Code section 504.715.

Written Consent

Unless limited or prohibited by the articles or bylaws of the corporation, action required or permitted under the Iowa Nonprofit Act can be approved by the members of the corporation without a meeting of members if the action is approved by members holding at least 80 percent of the voting power. The action must be evidenced by one or more written consents describing the action taken, signed by those members representing at least 80 percent of the voting power, and delivered to the corporation for inclusion in the minutes or filing with the corporate records. A written consent may be revoked by a writing to that effect received by the corporation prior to the receipt by the corporation of unrevoked written consents sufficient in number to take corporation action. A written consent may be submitted by a member through electronic transmission, which should include email. Iowa Code section 504.704.

Virtual or Telephonic Meetings of Board of Directors

Article continued on page 9



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

DEPARTMENT OF IOWA

Auxiliary Communique



SERVING VETERANS, THEIR FAMILIES AND THEIR COMMUNITIES

PAGE 7



This year is certainly one for the History books. Lots of plans canceled, lives put on hold, wearing masks, home schooling, and getting used to the "new normal". Many of you from my American Legion Family saw that Department Convention has been canceled. Our board has voted to keep all officers in place if they choose to continue. I will continue to serve Iowa as Department President till our Department Convention in 2021. It is my honor to continue as your President. Who would have thought last July when this started that we would be here today. Our Department Vice President, Lorna Golson, has decided to resign for personal reasons and we wish her the best

of luck in her future endeavors. Lorna you have done a great job representing the Auxiliary and I know you will continue to do that. The DEC voted to ratify Doris Jackson as our new Department Vice President. We welcome Doris and wish her success in the coming year. I am excited to continue serving with Iowa's own National President Nicole Clapp. The American Legion and the Sons of the American Legion are also doing the same thing. We are a family and we will continue to work together for the next year. I am glad to have both American Legion Commander James Kessler and SAL Commander Mike Monserud on this ride with me. The DEC have also voted to cancel Girls State and Junior Camp this summer. These were some hard decisions, but we felt we needed to for the best interest of the children and the volunteers that are with them during the week.

We will continue working on some great things for next year. Girls State will still celebrate their 75th Session next year. Junior Camp will celebrate their 35th Junior Camp. Both have worked hard on plans and will continue to work on those plans. Girls State refund checks have been sent out to the units. We will be getting more information out to our units when we send the membership packets. This year they will be a little late as National finalizes some things. They will be coming out to you in July. There will be forms included in those packets for your units to complete and get back to the Department office. Please watch for updates and more information coming out. Once we have made final decisions on our plans for next year, we will let you know via our website, Facebook and e-newsletters. If you need help finding these or receiving the e-newsletters, please contact the Department office and they would be happy to assist you. We will get through this and come out stronger than we were before. Continue to do what you can to help our Veterans, our Communities and our Youth. I am so proud of our members in Iowa and the way you have stepped up to help in any way needed. The masks, the snacks for the Veterans Home, the food collections, the phone calls for Buddy checks and the positive thoughts have been amazing. Keep doing what you are doing and stay safe while you are doing it. I look forward to the



day that we can start having our meetings again. I miss seeing all of you and making new friends throughout the state. This year has been amazing, and I can't wait to see what this next year brings for us. I have faith that this too shall pass. Thank you for the continued support and I will continue to do the best I can to serve the Department of

Iowa American Legion Family.

100 Years of Service Not Self
Kelly Elliott

Office of the National President

Greetings Iowa American Legion Auxiliary Members,

As this administrative year comes to a close, we could have never predicted not being face to face to work our mission or enjoy each other's company. Quite frankly, we had never even heard of COVID -19 Coronavirus until just a few months ago. But, we can still proudly reflect on the recent achievement of the American Legion Auxiliary's major milestone, summed up in this year's national ALA theme: Celebrating a Century of Service. I now challenge you in spite of everything going on around us, we continue to celebrate our 100th Birthday until we gather together for our next National Convention in Phoenix 2021. If we take a step back and think, how many organizations or individuals get to celebrate their 100th birthday for two years straight!

That's 100 continuous years of delivering on our organization's promise of selfless service to our country's veterans, military, and their families. Fulfilling that promise, making a difference in the lives of so many people, is our mission ... and our legacy.

We've lived up to that legacy — and built upon it with the Auxiliary's numerous programs, through which we have mentored youth, promoted patriotism, encouraged good citizenship, enhanced local communities, and supported The American Legion.

Let's stay on that purpose-filled path as we unprecedentedly will continue to serve for another year under our current leadership. We are committed to remaining focused on accomplishing the Auxiliary's noble mission. Your continued determination, dedication, and diligence will help us achieve another 100 years, or more, of dedicated service.

Take care and stay safe until we meet again!

Love, National President Nikki



So Many Changes and Updates!

Crystal Wright, Executive Director

Hello Units, Counties and Districts of Iowa. This has been a challenging time for all of us. I hope that everyone is safe and staying healthy and being more cautious if they need to be out and about. Our number one priority is our members, without you the Auxiliary would not thrive. Many Districts, Counties, and Units are learning new ways of communicating with their members. Whether it is through Facebook, Email, Phone, Twitter, Snap Chat or any of those other hip new ways of communicating. Maybe you have heard chatter of Zoom or Goto Meetings, these are new ways of having meetings with your members, where they can Call in or Video Chat and it can be recorded and used at your Unit, County or District. This currently is one of the major ways our Department is working on communicating with our Committee members and the Department Executive Board and even National Headquarters. It is a learning process but it is doable and actually pretty easy once you try.

Social Media Facebook

One way we are doing that here at



Department is through social media. Have you visited our Facebook page? It is the easiest and fastest way to communicate to multiple people and let our community know what you are doing during Covid-19 in your community. You can go to our Facebook by searching for Iowa American Legion Auxiliary, or by going to our webpage and clicking on the Facebook link at the bottom of the page. Has your Unit or your County or your District developed a Facebook page in your community? This can be done and share it with the Iowa American Legion Auxiliary so more members can see it. Set one up for a Unit using the example of Shellsburg Auxiliary Unit 166. Then share it with members of your Community. For the County, the County Presidents can make one using the example of Benton County...

Article continued on next page

Finance & A Pandemic

These times have truly been trying as we social distance ourselves and try to keep safe. Be reassured that the Department office, your DEC and the finance committee are doing their parts to continue to be fiscally responsible with the funds available.

So, what does the future hold? Honestly, none of us know for certain. The only thing we do know for certain is that our Veterans needs and the needs of their families will not change. They are still in need of our love and our support, whatever that may be.

Look at our own needs throughout this pandemic. Are you working remotely? Are you an essential employee? Have you been laid off as a result?

What can you do as a member of the ALA to help us continue to be fiscally responsible?

- Have you paid your 2019-2020 Obligations? If not, please do so as this will help everyone by saving postage and having funds available for the needs of the Veterans
- Have you looked at the Announcement section of the

Website? If not, check it out to see if there are any new updates that you or your unit need to be aware of.

- Did your unit hold Memorial Day or Poppy Activities? Check the Department Website for updates regarding Poppy activities!

- Are you holding any membership? Please turn them in!

- Gold Club Dues? Have you remitted yours for this year? Please do so!

As a member of the finance committee we encouraged the Department Office to file for the Paycheck Protection Plan or PPP. This is a program from the government that helps us to keep our employees on the payroll through this uncertain time. The best part of this program should we receive the funds... As long as 75% of the loan amount is used for Payroll, Employee health insurance or rent/utilities it is forgivable! We do not have to pay it back! What a wonderful benefit for our employees (and us!)

Keep volunteering for the benefit of our Veterans and their Families!

Dawn Aberle, Chairman
Linda Sue Mullen and Julie Rosenboom Committee Members

Chaplain's Corner

The LORD himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. - Deuteronomy 31:8

In the last few months our everyday lives have changed. This coronavirus has created such a fear in us. God doesn't want us to be afraid. We have someone looking out for us – God is greater and God is bigger than any fear or tragedy in our lives. For the Lord your God is merciful; He will not abandon you.

Trust in him at all times, oh people; pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us. - Psalm 62:8

Put your hope and faith in our Almighty God. We will get through this pandemic together. When you are praying to our Dear Lord, please pray once again for those who serve our country; that they may return to their loved ones safely.

Do you have a favorite prayer or Bible verse that has helped sustain you through the last couple months? If you do, please send it to me so I may enclose it in my Book of Prayers and Inspirations for President Kelly. My email address: m_mooberry@yahoo.com or home address: 1200 Court St. Charles City, IA. 50616. I pray our American Legion Family is Staying Safe

Mary Mooberry

Executive Director's article continued

...Auxiliary President and the District can use one like 3rd District President. Then when your term is up or you are no longer the President of the Unit, District or County, you just pass your user name and password onto your predecessor, they can change the password at that time when you pass them all the other wonderful information you have to share with them.

EMAIL

Does your Unit, County and District have an email account? Just like Facebook, this user id and password can be given to the next in line or other members to assist with day to day activities. One email that works great for many people is Gmail. For a Unit Gmail email address you can use examples like shellsburgamericanlegionauxiliary@gmail.com this is just an example. But the president can set this up, share it with Department we can send updated information faster to you, we can send forms and reminders to you and membership reports directly to you. This can also be shared on your Facebook for your community to contact you. A new member may want to join and they don't know who to contact. Or maybe they want some sort of Military family event and need to contact the Auxiliary. The possibilities are endless. You can have the President, Secretary and then maybe Membership all know this user id and that way it can be checked on a regular basis.

Counties can do the same, by using the example of bentoncountyauxiliarypresident@gmail.com or something shorter and the same with districts using the example of district3auxiliarypresident@gmail.com. Then when you step down from your positions, you just hand off your information to the new president and the password and they can change it. This will help with uniformity, help members find us and assist with being able to get information to members faster than snail mail. Once again these are only examples but they are ideas to think about. If you choose to set one up for your Unit, County or District that is a generic type email like these examples or any email please email Jeannie asap so she can update your records at alamembership@ialegion.org.

Webpage/Newsletters

Junior Camp

I know this comes as no surprise but the ALA Junior Camp for August 9-14, 2020 is cancelled along with Department Junior Convention on August 14th. But no need to cry as we will be back next year with more time to plan and organize the week events! So be sure and check out the Communique or our Facebook page for updates on all the events that we will be planning for next year. Juniors, I'm really looking forward to seeing you and hearing about everything you have done since our last

We have a Department Webpage, www.iowaala.org where we are working on updates to better assist with day to day activities in the American Legion Auxiliary. There are a few places that you may need to check on a regular basis. As President Kelly mentioned in her comments, members of her committees are changing, you can view those changes as they get updated by going to About Us on the top of the webpage and clicking on Department Leadership, some members have changed so please make sure when you are contacting them, you are reaching out to the right committee member. Another spot to look at is Announcements at the bottom of the home page. Click on that for recent updates and cancellations. Then Forms/Resources, this is the area most used. Here you will find information helpful from National Headquarters, New Form for Poppy Distribution, updated At a Glance Calendar for the year and many other forms. Some of the forms are just being modified due to Covid-19 while others may look completely different, which we hope will assist in making your work load easier as it does ours. You can also go to Publications, for Newsletters you may have missed, for Communique articles you may want to review and other important information. The back of the blue book will have a revision shortly and be published so that everyone has the correct contact information. If a form is not working or you have suggestions, please contact me here at Headquarters as I would like to make it as easy as possible.

Membership

Membership Packets will be going out at the end of June. These packets will have a lot of information in them, there will be all the membership documents along with an envelope of items for the Unit Presidents. These will hold new forms, old forms and just about all the information you need till January of 2021. Forms will be available in PDF version on the website but we would like to include them for you so you can add them to your monthly calendars. If you have an ALAMIS user ID you may have received notification last year about the Dues increasing for ALAMIS, we have received word that these rates will stay the same this year due to Covid-19.

camp. Information will be posted later this year on when to register for next year's camp.

35th Anniversary

The 35th Junior Camp Anniversary Reception planned for August 9, 2020 has been cancelled till next year. More will be posted when a date is set. T-shirt orders will continue to be taken. Please send your orders to me with a check for amount owed.

Thank you,
Doris Jackson, Junior Camp Director

Membership

Greetings from your 2020 Membership Team! The membership year is coming to a close and what a year it has been. It is time for our last membership push and

to finish the year strong. As of May 6 the Department of Iowa is sitting at 93% just 2% short of our May 18 goal of 95%. What an amazing accomplishment thus far!

During this pandemic it is extremely important to make contact with others. What a great opportunity

to reach out to all your members, check in with how they are doing and offer assistance if you can. If you have members who have not paid their 2020 dues ask them if they would like to renew at this time.

Together we will soar to 100%

Judy, Jammie, Alida

Conducting Business continued from page 6

The Iowa Nonprofit Act provides that unless the articles or bylaws provide otherwise, a board may permit any or all director to participate in a regular or special meeting by, or conduct the meeting through the use of, any means of communication by which all directors participating may simultaneously hear each other during the meeting. A director participating in a meeting by this means is deemed to be present in person at the meeting. Iowa Code section 504.821(3).

Action by Email

Under the Iowa Nonprofit Act, a board to take action pursuant to a written consent signed by all of the directors. The written consent may be signed and transmitted electronically. The Iowa Nonprofit Act does not expressly address email voting. Still, a board is able to use email communication for purposes of complying with the written consent requirements of the Iowa Nonprofit Act. This means that each director needs to consent to the proposed course of action. An email vote in which not all of the directors vote in the affirmative is not effective under the Iowa Nonprofit Act. It needs to be unanimous. It is also necessary that each director "sign" the consent and deliver it to the association. Iowa Code section 504.822. Under the Iowa Nonprofit Act, the term "sign" is defined to include an "electronic signature." Iowa law defines an "electronic signature" very broadly to mean an electronic sound, symbol or process attached to or logically associate with a record and executed or adopted by a person with the intent to sign the record. With such a definition, a director could electronically "sign" a consent in a variety of ways. Iowa Code section 504.141.

Although emails can be very helpful to ensure quick communications to directors and to receive board of director approval on actions, it is extremely easy for such communications to be less formal than other types of communications. For example, a board chair might seek action from the board by asking the other directors what they think about a certain issue and treat it as board action if the other directors are supportive in their responses. If the proposed course of action is not clearly stated, there is risk of a dispute as to whether the board actually took action or what action was taken. Thus, it is important to present a proposal in a manner similar to how it would be presented in an in-person or telephonic meeting. An example would be sending the board the proposed resolution: "Resolved, that the board of directors approves the filing of the application for tax-exempt status with the Internal Revenue Service." Such email also might request that each director send a reply email stating "I hereby consent to the resolution" and, in order to meet the "sign" requirements, type the director's name below such statement.

Action by email is to be treated in the same manner as board action at an in-person or telephonic meeting from a record keeping standpoint. As a result, any email action should be included as part of the minutes of the nonprofit.

Finally, although it is possible to effectuate action of the board via email, it is important to recognize that this is not the preferable way for a board to act. A board is most effective when directors are able to consult and exchange views. This is accomplished through in person or telephonic meetings of the board. For this reason, email voting is often viewed as an alternative only when it is not possible to have the board meet either in person or by telephone.

Press Association article continued from page 6

Please see www.ialegion.org/ialpa for full details. Please send your \$3.00 to IALPA, The American Legion Department of Iowa, 720 Lyon Street, Des Moines, IA 50309. Please include: your

name, Post, Unit, or Squadron number and location, plus your address, phone number and e-mail. Membership in IALPA will enhance your knowledge of Iowa Media and Communications programs. Please send in your membership today.

Department Membership
Donald Swan, Chairman

As we near the end of the 2020 Membership year I want to leave you with a few thoughts to apply to the 2021 Membership year that is only a few days away:

- Frequent Health and Welfare checks are a must Consider Sponsoring a Legionnaire's Membership
- Remember to support your Communities
- Nurture your Youth through your Posts support for Scouting, Flag Essays, Junior Shooters, Legion Baseball, High School Oratorical and Boys State Programs

- Help keep our VA System Strong
- Volunteer
- Protect our National Security
- Vote!

Covid-19 has changed our ability to Meet and conduct our Meetings. Zoom Meetings are becoming more the norm. Remember that this may be the time to start using some our technology to communicate with your Members. The new Membership Year starts July 1 so pay your dues early. Thank you all for everything you have done this Year.

Membership Memos

We are winding down to the final few weeks for the membership year. Please don't let the momentum go. There are so many posts out there that only need 1 or 2 more to be goal. How many members do you have that paid for 2019 but have not yet paid for 2020? Those are the members that we need to be contacting and getting their dues. They might make the difference between goal or not.

Well, as a lot of you are already aware, I will be retiring on June 30th at which time I will be moving to Texas to be close to my son and his family. I want to thank everyone that I have

met and worked with over the last 13 years. For friendships made and many good times enjoyed with all of you. I will definitely miss hearing from a lot of you but I will be starting a new adventure in my life which I am looking forward too.

Once we get a new person in place for me to train before I leave there should be a smooth transition. I hope you will all be patient with whoever takes over. I will do my best to prepare them for taking care of your needs and inquiries. Best wishes to everyone, stay healthy and safe.

Marcia Hoch
Department Membership &
Executive Secretary

District Standings as of 05/22/2020

STANDING	DISTRICT	2020 GROWTH GOAL	CURRENT MEMBERSHIP	PERCENTAGE
First	6th	4,904	4,779	97.45
Second	7th	3,391	3,266	96.31
Third	2nd	6,606	6,265	94.84
Fourth*	8th	3,875	3,649	94.17
Fourth*	5th	2,948	2,776	94.17
Sixth	9th	5,406	5,134	94.03
Seventh	1st	3,991	3,747	93.50
Eighth	4th	4,152	3,882	93.50
Ninth	3rd	5,191	4,817	92.80
DEPARTMENT TOTAL		41,743	39,128	93.74

* At the time of this report, there was a tie for fourth place in the Department.

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.

STAY UP-TO-DATE WITH OUR CALENDAR OF EVENTS
<https://www.ialegion.org/calendar>

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

COVID Article continued from page 1

- National Oratorical Finals
 - Leading Candidate Orientations
 - DSO School
 - Membership Workshop
 - Junior Shooting Sports
 - Boys Nation
 - American Legion Baseball regional tournaments
 - The American Legion World Series
 - Legacy Run
 - Americanism Conferences
 - Children & Youth Conference
 - System Worth Saving and ROAR visits
 - And any other minor meetings that may have been planned
- A copy of the resolution may be found on the Department's website.

Boys State/Boys Nation: The American Legion of Iowa Boys State Board of Directors met on Tuesday, March 24, 2020 to discuss the direct impact COVID-19 has on the upcoming session. After careful consideration of the information available and the uncertain future as to the longevity of this pandemic, The American Legion of Iowa Boys State Board of Directors decided to cancel the 2020 Boys State Session and its correlative activities such as District Orientations. The decision to cancel was difficult, but the safety of all participants involved from delegates to counselors was of utmost priority. Please read the full response on the Department's website. Refunds were issued to each post according to the number of reservations paid.

Boys Nation was cancelled as a direct response to the uncertainty of COVID-19 and to ensure the safety of all involved.

The Americanism Commission, in consultation with National Commander James William "Bill" Oxford, announces suspension of the Samsung American Legion Scholarship awards for 2020. Samsung American Legion Scholarships awarded in years prior to 2020 will continue to be paid out to students upon their requests to receive their funds.

Baseball: The American Legion of Iowa Baseball Committee discussed the direct impact COVID-19 has on the 2020 season on Tuesday, March 24, 2020. The committee made the decision to cancel the 2020 season after careful consideration and input from coaches. The Department of Iowa has worked to secure the refund of insurance and registration fees paid for by all teams involved this year.

National Oratorical: Since the National Oratorical Championship was cancelled, Department champions were not able to receive the scholarships normally awarded for appearance at the National Contest. That has been remedied by award of a \$2,000 scholarship to each Department Champion from National.

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Walk For Veterans Registrations

Department Commander James B. Kessler will lead American Legion Family members and friends in a Walk for Veterans.

The American Legion Walk for Veterans will be during the Veterans Parade at the Iowa State Fair on August 17, 2020, at the Iowa State Fairgrounds. The parade begins at 11:00 am and participants are asked to be in the staging area before 10:00 am.

Participants must register (free registration) with The American Legion of Iowa before July 12, 2020. The cost of a Walk for Veterans shirt is \$10.00. All walk

Dept. Leadership School**RESCHEDULED: DEPARTMENT LEADERSHIP SCHOOL – FRIDAY, SATURDAY, SUNDAY – SEPTEMBER 11-13, 2020**

The Department Leadership School will be held September 11-13, 2020 at the Holiday Inn Downtown, 1050 Sixth Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa. The school will run on Friday evening from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.; Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and Sunday from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

The department will cover the cost of six (6) attendees per district, one of which should be the 2020-2021 District Commander. The S.A.L. Detachment is also authorized six (6) attendees. This includes room (based on double occupancy), course materials, breakfast on Saturday and Sunday, and lunch on Saturday. Department will not reimburse attendees for any mileage or per diem.

Endorsed candidates for Department Commander, Department Vice Commander, National Executive Committeeman (NEC) and Alternate NEC are also invited to attend

National Legion College

The American Legion National College enhances knowledge and appreciation of The American Legion, and teaches the core values and contributions of the organization, its Auxiliary, Sons of The American Legion and many subordinate programs. The National Legion College prepares Legionnaires for leadership positions in posts, districts, counties, and departments through education, development, and motivation. The curriculum challenges student leaders to think critically and creatively about issues confronting the Legion.

The curriculum centers on self-taught,

Iowa Legionnaire of the Year Nominations

Art McLaughlin was the post member who took on the 'taken for granted jobs' at the post, doing the extra things to make activities in the post and the community even better. He did the little repair jobs around the post and was always checking to make sure everything was going well. He was happiest when he was actively working to support the Post and his rural community.

A soft-spoken leader, Art was respected throughout Mt. Auburn and The American Legion because of his ability to talk to people. He was a tireless membership worker who was constantly recruiting members for not only his home post, but throughout Benton County,

at department expense. Candidates for department and national offices are in addition to the six allocated for each district.

Spouses and significant others are discouraged from accompanying you. You will be required to double up in the hotel rooms to minimize expenses. Any attendee requesting his/her own room will be required to pay entire room charge + tax.

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

To register, complete the Registration Form and mail or email to Department Headquarters:

REGISTRATION DEADLINES

2020-2021 District Commanders must submit the List of Authorized Attendees for your District before August 7, 2020.

Individual Registration Forms are due no later than August 14, 2020.

small-group sessions supervised by graduate facilitators, staff members, contracted professional speakers and national officers. Students review The American Legion's core values, develop new ideas and consider the future. An emphasis is placed on programs, management techniques and leadership skills necessary to increase visibility of programs, growth in membership, and public awareness of the Legion and its corresponding organizations.

National American Legion College will be hosted at National Headquarters in Indianapolis, Indiana November 1-6, 2020. For more information on this opportunity and eligibility, visit the Department website www.ialegion.org/legion-college or contact Department Headquarters.

the Third District, and Iowa. A humble man, Art would be surprised to think that there is an award named in his honor. He was a quiet leader who did not work for recognition, but volunteered because it was the right thing to do.

His wife, Sherry McLaughlin, Past National Auxiliary President had this to say: "I once told someone that The American Legion was Art's life." The young Legionnaire replied, "No, The American Legion was his passion."

The Department of Iowa asks that you nominate qualified Legionnaires for this award as away of saying "Thank You" to a strong 'blue cap' Legionnaire.

Applications can be found online at www.ialegion.org/resources. Search under the Program Forms Tab. Applications are due to Dept. HQ June 15, 2020.

participants must wear The American Legion Walk for Veterans shirt and must pre-register. All parade participants will receive free entry into the Iowa State Fair. Parking is not included.

Registration Forms, Information and Updates:

Information, instructions, and forms are available on our website or by request from the Department office. For more information please contact The American Legion of Iowa by phone at 800-365-8387, by email at brenda@ialegion.org or view online at www.ialegion.org/wfv.

*Post & Squadron
Everlasting reflect members
2-16-2020 TO 5-15-2020*

SPENCER #1
LARRY CLASSON
RICHARD HALLETT
WAYNE HALLING
TOM HART
CLEO JOHNSON
WAYNE PAULSEN
KENNETH SANDVIG
NILES SWANCUTT
COUNCIL BLUFFS #2
LARRY BECKNER
MAX CLARK
DONALD CROSON
CARL FERREL
GARY HOWARD
JAMES MOSS
IRWIN SCHLORHOLTZ
DAVID STEWART
RONALD SUTTON
ROBERT WARNER
HARRY WEBER
OTTUMWA #3
CHARLES MCKITTRICK
MICHAEL VAN VELSOR
JAMES WIDGER
CHARLES WILT
DUBUQUE #6
JAMES BARRY
DONALD BURROWS
KENNETH EHLINGER
DONALD LINDEN
HARRISON LOCHNER
HENRY PLINER
MERLIN SCHUSTER
TOM STEFFEN
WILLIAM THUL
RICHARD WESTHOFF
ROBERT WITTE
CARROL #7
RAYMOND BECKMAN
ARLO JOCHIMS
EDWARD LAWLER
JOHN LONGNECKER
PAUL REINART
DENISON #8
ALLAN PREUL
ROBERT ROBINSON
OELWEIN #9
DANIEL SCHMITT
ARTHUR SENSOR
JEFFERSON #11
FRANCIS GORMAN
THOMAS HAMMEL
DAVID REDFERN
ANAMOSA #13
DENNIS HANSEN
LARRY KRULL
ALVA MELCHERS
SWEA CITY #14
JOSEPH JOHNSON
JACOB PETERSON
IOWA CITY #17
JAMES BERRY
MIKE DEWEY
POCAHONTAS #18
DONALD BOUGHEY
DENNIS HUDEK
ROLLIN JOHNSON
DAVENPORT #26
CARROLL HULTGREN
JAMES LONERGAN
MUSCATINE #27
MARLIN ALLCHIN
ROGER ARCHER
DONALD FENNELL
WILLIAM GARMON
KENNETH LANGE
IVAN MARTIN
JAMES MCCLEARY
WASHINGTON #29
DUANE KROTZ
HOWARD LUNNING
LAKE CITY #31
DALE AUSBORN
RUDOLPH ENGSTROM
DICK LAMBERTY
WILLIAM SCHUMACHER
RANDY TASLER
RUTHVEN #33
STANLEY SMITH
BELMOND #35

ROBERT GRAM
PRIMGHAR #36
SIDNEY GUSTAFSON
AMES #37
ROBERT GEARHART
ALVIN KIBSGAARD
CHARLES MULFORD
JAMES MYERS
DONALD PAYER
KEOKUK #41
R SCHIEFFER
BILLY WHALEN
ANKENY #42
DEAN STALL
MANCHESTER #45
WARD HARBAUGH
MARSHALLTOWN #46
JOHN BARNES
KENNETH CARPENTER
NORMAN RANK
NEVADA #48
WILLIAM WARD
LANSING #50
WESLEY GOEKE
STEVEN THORSTEN
GRINNELL #53
JAMES AHRENS
LARRY ELLIS
EDWIN JOHNSTON
DONALD LATHAM
RAYMOND MELDREM
VICTOR #54
DONALD VANNEVEL
BOONE #56
HAROLD HUFFMAN
ROBERT KRULL
KEVIN MILES
VINTON #57
JOHN BANTZ
RICHARD LINDSEY
LEE SMITH
MT PLEASANT #58
JAMES CORDES
DONALD LONG
DES MOINES #60
DAVID HAMILTON
IDA GROVE #61
BRUCE SNELL
WAUKON #62
HARRIET HANSON
SIoux CITY #64
RONALD PETTIT
OSCEOLA #69
KENNETH WELCHER
CRESTON #70
CECIL STEVENS
GARWIN #71
HOWARD CLOUGH
RAY ZOFFKA
TOLEDO #72
JIM HALBIG
TAMA #73
HAROLD CROSKREY
ROBERT SADLER
MAQUOKETA #75
THOMAS BOLLINGER
GERALD FRANZEN
MARVIN WEIS
MARENGO #76
EARL BROWN
STANLEY HAUSER
BILL MCKUSKER
PELLA #89
LOREN VANDERWERT
ALGONA #90
O FISCHER
WESTGATE #92
DALE WILLIAMS
CLARINDA #98
ROBERT HAMM
EDWIN TINO
MASON CITY #101
RONALD MELLMAN
CHARITON #102
BILL DARRAH
JERRY GOODE
DARL JAMES
GAROLD LOGSDON
ELKADER #106
GERALD BECK
ELAINE SYVERSON
KEYSTONE #107
DONALD ALBERS
RUSSELL KNIPP
LISBON #109

ALOIS OPATZ
KEOSAUQUA #113
CHARLES HALES
CORNING #117
WILLIAM DICKS
AUDUBON #120
EVERETT NELSON
TIPTON #123
HAROLD SWICK
GUTHRIE CNTR #124
MELVIN DURST
MERRILL #125
DAN LANG
DALE VANDERKOOI
SIDNEY #128
BOBBIE CLAPPER
FT DODGE #130
DONALD CHARLSON
FRANKLIN PATTERSON
RODNEY PATTERSON
CRESCO #135
ROBERT FRENCH
GENTRY LEEPS
JOHN MOE
GEORGE VACHTA
ALBIA #136
BERNARD CRALL
DYERSVILLE #137
GARY KRAPFL
WATERLOO #138
ROBERT DUBEN
DONALD KEMP
LEO LAPIERRE
LLOYD TIMS
KINGSLEY #140
CURTIS MOODIE
TRAER #142
HOWARD ALCORN
WOODBINE #143
ZELL MILLARD
SHELDON #145
ROBERT DENHARTOG
WEST BEND #151
ROMAN KNECHT
BETTENDORF #154
JEROME HANSEN
THOMAS SEYMOUR
WOODBURN #157
BILLIE CHASE
DELHI #160
ELDON WILSON
GRAETTINGER #162
DENNIS BERRY
BEDFORD #164
LEONARD BROWNE
OLLIE ODLE
INDIANOLA #165
DONALD HEWITT
ROGER MASON
SHELLSBURG #166
LARRY RICE
MT AYR #172
MICHAEL OLSZEWSKI
CHARLES CITY #174
HERMAN EGGERS
COLFAX #175
JAMES SHEESLEY
WAVERLY #176
DONALD BROWN
LAWRENCE MAGNALL
ARTHUR SIMPSON
HAMPTON #183
RALPH BETTS
VERLE BUTT
CLIFFORD HUFF
DONALD VAUGHN
WILBER WHIPPLE
WINTERSET #184
GLENN STEPHENSON
AKRON #186
ARVIN FINZEN
IA FALLS #188
WILLIAM SCHMIDT
CLINTON #190
ROBERT HACKETT
ROBERT WRIGHT
WEBSTER CITY #191
THOMAS TRINKLE
SAC CITY #195
JACK SIMPSON
MANSON #204
LLOYD SCHREIER
LA PORTE CITY #207
RONALD HAYUNGS
RICHARD JACKSON

JAMES TIPPETT
ANITA #210
RICHARD PETERSON
WOODWARD #211
JOHN SWANSON
CENTERVILLE #214
RICHARD BAZE
ATKINS #217
GARRETT HEINS
JAMES PARRIS
LARRY SHEARS
STRAWBERRY PT #218
ALMON FLIEHLER
ROBERT FOWLKES
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JAMES KENNEDY
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DONALD BEHRENDT
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ROBERT CRESAP
DANNY GRAYBEAL
JOE REIMERS
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WILLIAMSBURG #228
CLIFFORD EIMEN
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DARWIN WIDMER
FARMINGTON #231
JAMES SMITH
POLK CITY #232
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DELBERT KEUBLER
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NORWAY #234
KEITH NEWTON
LAKE MILLS #235
BERNARD FLUGUM
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DANIEL HAGARTY
JAMES MAGNUSON
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MAYNARD #245
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FONTANELLE #247
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LENOX #250
GLEN BROKAW
GEORGE DAVIS
WILLIAM YOUNG
VILLISCA #251
JAMES BRANAN
DON PATTERSON
ACKLEY #252
CLINTON POLEY
UNION #255
LYLE MINTER
GARNER #256
EARL JASPERSON
REDFIELD #261
GENE MARTIN
WALL LAKE #262
JAMES MEISTER
GLENN NISSEN
URBANA #264
MERLE HORAK
GREENFIELD #265
CHARLES HARRIS
MCGREGOR #267
WAYNE ANDERSON
DARWIN HALLBERG
WILLIAM WILD
CHELSEA #269
DONALD BEHOUNEK
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BELLEVUE #273
EUGENE GRANAHAN
DES MOINES #274
EUGENE COSNER
LOREN DUDLEY
DARREL FEVOLD
SHEFFIELD #277

ROBERT JENSEN
LAWLER #279
WILLIAM SHEKLETON
PARKERSBURG #285
ROD KENDRICK
HARTLEY #288
RODNEY HARMS
CLETES MEYER
CARROL SHATZER
ASHTON #290
RAY NASERS
BROOKLYN #294
RICHARD OSBORNE
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NORMAN MCCOMBS
MARION #298
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CHARLES ALLEN
VIRGIL BOYNTON
DALE BUENZOW
CHARLES CLAUSS
LAUREL FRANKS
ROBERT GUZMAN
FRANK KLEMETSON
JAMES MCNEILL
IRWIN RENFER
ALBERT CITY #299
WILLIAM HENNINGSON
MARVIN MELOHN
DENNIS OLSON
MARQUETTE #305
MOEJO KAUTMAN
HAWKEYE #312
HERMAN LALK
KEITH MORGAN
PERSIA #314
WILLIAM RYAN
ORANGE CITY #329
ORVILLE BELTMAN
NEOLA #330
RICHARD FISCHER
SPRINGVILLE #331
ROBERT MEIER
FRANCIS OLESON
JESUP #342
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DIXON #353
ROBERT REESE
DOUGHERTY #354
ROGER MARSH
JOSEPH ROONEY
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DALE CHRISTENSEN
DEAN LLOYD
MERLIN SIEVERS
MIKE WILLENBORG
DELMAR YAGER
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MAX KAIN
PARNELL #369
JOSEPH BLACK
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GEORGE ARCHER
TERRY GLENN
CHARLES REED
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DUFFY KESTER
HULL #380
JIM WIELENGA
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DAVID EGANHOUSE
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EUGENE SCHMIDT
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DONALD WAGNER
CARLISLE #391
FRANKLIN NORTON
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JON HADENFELDT
JAMES UMSCHIED
UNIONVILLE #407
WALTER SCOTT
CENTRAL CITY #421
DICK SCHMID
GOWRIE #431

LYLE BARKLEY
TERRIL #432
DARIAL DETERMAN
AURORA #435
RICHARD RAU
BLOCKTON #443
DAVID BELL
WHEATLAND #447
KENNETH BACHUS
GALVA #454
BERYL SCHUBERT
FRANCE WANBERG
LONE TREE #457
DON WALKER
OLON #460
HARLAN BRUMWELL
RICHARD ERENBERGER
BERNARD ERENBERGER
LAWRENCE HUBER
GEORGE MARPLE
GORDON ZUMWALT
ADEL #464
IVAN KNOLL
HINTON #477
EVERETT BOLLMEYER
JILL BROUWER
MT VERNON #480
ELDEAN BORG
NORTH ENGLISH #488
NORMAN AXMEAR
OAKVILLE #489
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LLOYD TRESHAM
BAXTER #493
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MAPLETON #496
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HOWARD KRUSE
LAWRENCE NELSON
BARNES CITY #507
GORDON LINDBLOM
WEST LIBERTY #509
LELAND SPILGER
MENLO #511
ROBERT DICKSON
POSTVILLE #518
C KEITH KERR
MONONA #519
HAROLD JAMES
CASCADE #528
GERALD BRIETBACH
OTTOSEN #535
ALLAN WEHRSPANN
WALCOTT #548
RAYMOND JOHNSON
FAIRBANK #552
DENNIS ATHEY
DONALD MARTINS
ELY #555
STEVEN KADLEC
CUMMING #562
JAMES DEMICHELIS
STACYVILLE #569
ALEX BLAKE
FAIRFAX #572
DOUGLAS COMRIED
RICHARD LEWIS
RONALD RASMUSSEN
DAVID SELZER
STRATFORD #576
HAROLD BERGLUND
PHILLIP CARROLL
ELMA #597
DALE MEIRICK
BREDA #607
DARWIN BECKER
JIM PUDENZ
DARRELL PUDENZ
VERNON WEBER
GRAFTON #616
RUFUS GLASSEL
LOWELL WALK
W DES MOINES #620
ROBERT SMITH
FENTON #627
THOMAS BRINK
HAZELTON #642
JUSTIN BARTELLS
WINFIELD #643
CECIL LINDER
EPWORTH #650
IVAN BERGER
JOHN GANSEN
DENVER #653

WALTER JAEHRLING
LESTER LEISINGER
ARTHUR VANEREM
FARLEY #656
RAY SCHERRMAN
DARREL STREIF
JAMES SWEENEY
DES MOINES #659
CHARLES COLOSIMO
NORMAN LETTINGTON
CHARLES MORGAN
LEONARD WILSON
URBANDALE #663
ROBERT ASCHEMAN
JOHN BUDESILICH
JERRY GIPPLE
OTTO JOHNSON
ELMER NEUSSENDORFER
RUSSELL NICHOLS
DALE NOEL
EDWARD WINGER
BLENCOE #665
MAHLON PEKAREK
LEO STANISLAV
BATAVIA #667
RONALD MCDOWELL
WEST POINT #668
SUSAN FARRINGTON
RALPH MENKE
SWISHER #671
STEVEN PUDIL
PALO #679
ELDON ADKISSON
CONRAD #681
JERRY BROWN
ALTOONA #682
DARRELL TERPSTRA
ST LUCAS #691
LORAS REICKS
ARCADIA #694
PAUL PAWLETZKI
MINEOLA #705
DUANE KAHL
BLUE GRASS #711
KENNETH ADOMAT
ROBERT SCHUERCH
GILBERTVILLE #714
THOMAS CORKERY
LAWTON #718
RICHARD ELLISON
NEVINVILLE #719
WALTER MCCURDY
DON STICKEN
CORALVILLE #721
DALE MILLER
BRUNSVILLE #724
CARLYLE DIRKS
DOUGLAS OSTERBUHR
GARY SCHILTZ
TREYNOR #725
WAYNE CASSON
LESTER PETERSEN
LAVERN SCHROEDER
IOWA #729
ROBERT BEECHER
GARY BOCK
WILLIAM BRANDHORST
RICHARD HILL
IRVIN HINZ
LARRY JENSEN
GARY KOLEK
EVERETT PILKINGTON
LARRY RENFER
JEROME SEIFRIED
LUTHER STIRTS
HIAWATHA #735
DONALD GABEL
WAUKEE #737
STEWART ALDRICH
RICHARD WILSON

Squadron Everlasting

COUNCIL BLUFFS SQDN #2
LARRY LEHNER
OSKALOOSA SQDN #34
STEVE JONES

The American Legion of Iowa Foundation



PNC David K. Rehbein, President

Normally we would use this issue of the Iowa Legionnaire to give you a report from the annual meeting of the American Legion of Iowa Foundation. This year, that meeting like so many others could not be held on the original date due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Our responsibility to the grant applicants that depend on Foundations like ours to operate their programs stopped any thought of cancellation.

Virtual meetings are possible but the discussion around the decisions to be made at the Foundation annual meeting makes that exceedingly difficult.

The Foundation Directors spend several hours discussing how to best distribute the available funds. We typically have approximately \$100,000 to distribute but normally have almost twice that much in requests. Those are not easy decisions.

For now, the Foundation Board is waiting for the severity of the pandemic to subscribe to schedule our annual meeting. We are hoping to be able to schedule a meeting in the next 60 days but that depends on the response of the pandemic to the measures being taken.

You can be assured that we have been working with our Financial advisors at Regions Bank to safeguard to the maximum extent the funds of the Foundation. Our policy has been to invest 40% of those funds in stocks and other equities and 60% in Treasury and corporate bonds. That is a relatively conservative investment policy but is still subject to the volatility in the stock market.

Thanks to the professionalism of our advisors at Regions, The Foundation funds have weathered that volatility relatively well. At this writing, our total investment is down about 5% from the peak before

COVID-19 began affecting our economy. For those who have retirement funds invested, I think you can understand that 5% is an excellent result. WE have optimistic that when the economy recovers from COVID-19, we will find ourselves in better financial condition than six months ago.

That makes two things that you can count on with The American Legion of Iowa Foundation. You can depend on us to safeguard the funds that you have donated and you can depend on the Foundation receiving more requests for funds than we can fulfill and that the Board of Directors will work hard to make sure we fulfill the grants that most closely mirror the four pillars of The American Legion.

When we can hold the annual meeting and make the decisions required for the next year, you will be informed of those decisions. Every one of the \$2.1 million that the Foundation has invested originally came from a member of the Legion family or a Legion supporter. We pledge to you to be transparent in our actions and responsible in managing the funds entrusted to us. Be safe and we will get through this together.

2019-2020 Program Awards

The American Legion of Iowa is proud to announce, that despite many challenges and program cancellations due to COVID-19, we were still able to award program winners during the year. The following awards have been announced since the last issue of The Iowa Legionnaire. A comprehensive list will be made available online once all awards are announced.

The awards that would typically be given to the recipients during Department Convention will be delegated to the local posts for a ceremony. Details will be sent to those respective posts.

We want to congratulate all of our program participants. We are proud of the work you do and support your endeavors.

Department Firefighter of the Year (forwarded to National for judging)
Chief Willis Albaugh of Quimby – Nominated by Quimby Post #398
Quimby Fire and Rescue

Department Law Enforcement Officer of the Year (forwarded to National for judging)
Deputy Tanner Frain of Council Bluffs – Nominated by Treynor Post #725
Pottawattamie County Sheriff's Department

Department Eagle Scout of the Year (forwarded to National for judging)
Lucas Juhl of Ankeny – SAL Member of Palmer Squadron #202

Department Adult Scouter of the Year
Jody Fraser of Holstein – Nominated by Holstein Post #225

Department Junior Shooting Sports Match
Ayden Wells (Des Moines Post #374) First Place Overall
Arturo Zaragoza (Des Moines Post #374) Second Place Overall
James Masteller (Des Moines Post #374) Third Place Overall
Ayden Wells (Des Moines Post #374) Age Category 1 – First
Arturo Zaragoza (Des Moines Post #374) Age Category 1 – Second
James Masteller (Des Moines Post #374) Age Category 1 – Third
Tha Da (Des Moines Post #374) Age Category 2 – First
Tyler Rundlett (Lone Tree Post #457) Age Category 2 – Second
Noemi Castro Salas (Des Moines Post #374) Age Category 2 – Third
Hailey Asbe (Swisher Post #671) Age Category 3 – First
Kiara Hallett (Muscatine Post #27) Age Category 3 – Second
Abigail Hazelwood (Swisher Post #671) Age Category 3 – Third
North High School (Des Moines Post #374) First Place Team
Mumm's Jr. Rifles (Lone Tree Post #457) Second Place Team
Swisher Sharpshooter (Swisher Post #671) Third Place Team

Imagine For A Moment ...

You're traveling away from home, and you get sick or hurt, in a town you're not familiar with, and attending medical staff whom you've never met before ... and in a medical emergency, where every minute counts, time is precious and acting quickly is essential.

Being hospitalized in a distant location can be a frightening and unsettling experience. Having an emergency travel assistance plan is a way to minimize the considerable financial and health-related risks in an emergency, including injury, illness and emergency evacuation to get you appropriate care.

This is why Your American Legion Department endorses the Emergency Assistance Plus® (EA+) Program. EA+ will be on your side, looking out for you, monitoring your medical care, and then getting you home after, if necessary.

The EA+ Program offers a comprehensive

package of over 20 services, some of which are critical during an emergency, such as emergency medical evacuation, transportation home, return-home assistance for companions, RV/vehicle return and other travel assistance services.* Some of which your medical insurance may NOT be likely to cover!

EA+ is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, so you will always be able to access help anywhere in the world. For additional information on how the EA+ Program works, and how you can enroll, visit www.TheLIT.com/Emergency-Assistance-Plus or call 1-800-293-4008 and a representative will be happy to assist you.

*This is only an outline of the plan's features. The full rules and regulations of the plan are shown in your Member Guide. Please read it carefully. Washington state residents must be traveling more than 100 miles away from Home to be eligible for EA+ services.

Department Educator of the Year

Byron Tinder of Gilbert High School was chosen as the 2019-2020 Department Educator of the Year. Mr. Tinder is the band instructor at Gilbert High School. As a well-respected colleague and educator, Mr. Tinder is an "instrumental" team member whose collaborates with all whom he works. Mr. Tinder is also an active member on several local and state committees and boards.

According to Mr. Tinder when describing his students, "They challenge me and push me to be my best everyday." Educators such as Mr. Tinder embody the heartbeat of exceptional service to his community.

Mr. Tinder was nominated by Ames Post #37. Congratulations to Mr. Byron Tinder upon your accomplishments.



COVID-19 Updates
Department - www.ialegion.org/covid-19-update
National - www.legion.org/news/248577/national-commander-coronavirus-updates