

THE AMERICAN LEGION OF IOWA - DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS REPORT DISTRICT SPRING CONFERENCES 2021

THE AMERICAN LEGION 100 MILES FOR HOPE

The American Legion's second annual 100 Miles for Hope has been expanded for 2021. There are two ways to register and participate. In order to allow participants to track their activities and encourage others to fundraise, we are using an app from a company called Kilter. Here's how to get started:

- 1) Register via Kilter and join our activity challenge, donate and fundraise for The American Legion. Every participant receives a medal to celebrate their achievement. It's easy and takes less than a minute.
- 2) Download the free Kilter app in the app store
- 3) Choose Sign In (top right)
- 4) Go to the Events tab > My Events (100 Miles for Hope will automatically come up as you've already registered!)
- 5) Complete your profile and connect your devices. Don't forget to set a goal!
- 5) Share! Tell all your family members and friends you're participating in The American Legion's 100 Miles for Hope that raises funds to support veterans and military families. Share your story on Legiontown, post to social media and send e-mails.
- 6) For a step-by-step approach on how to use the Kilter app, check out this video:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R1eo6ltmfau>

How to Register Via Emblem Sales

This option is recommended for those who do not have a smartphone, are registering multiple family members such as minor children or grandchildren, or do not care about tracking their activities. They may register via this page on Emblem Sales: <https://emblem.legion.org/100-Miles-For-Hope/products/1437/>. From that page, regardless of which way you register, you may also purchase your choice of commemorative gear that benefits the Veterans & Children Foundation.

How to Participate

Complete daily wellness activities of at least a half-hour and accumulate points. You can complete up to three wellness activities each day that count toward your total. There are more than 40 different activities to choose from. And if your activity isn't represented on the app, you can create a manual activity that will count. Also, there are ways to receive bonus points! Check the app to find out how.

Go to <https://www.legion.org/100miles/activitytracking> to learn more about how to track your efforts, see a list of activities, and how to add manual ones.

How to Help Veterans & Children Foundation

After registering, head over to Emblem Sales to view a collection of commemorative 100 Miles for Hope merchandise that you can purchase to support the V&CF. This year, we have new tech shirts, sweatshirts, baseball caps, a pin, a patch for Legion Riders and a challenge coin. All proceeds go directly toward the foundation.

Use the app's individual donation tool to encourage friends and family to support your personal wellness goal as well as the V&CF with a donation.

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MISSION BLUE POST ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

At the 2020 Fall National Executive Committee Meeting, Resolution #36, Subject: Mission Blue Post Assistance Program was approved. Posts impacted by a government's public health restrictions implemented in response to the COVID-19 pandemic may apply for a grant up to \$1,000. Posts must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- A post must have a current consolidated post report on file.
- A post must have filed an IRS 990 within the prescribed due date. Please provide copy of IRS Form 990 or provide Employer Identification Number (EIN) for verification.
- A post must have filed all other required forms and reports as prescribed by the departments. Current Post Officer Reporting Form must be on file or submitted with application.
- A post must have actively participated in one or more American Legion programs within the last 18 months. Please provide a summary of the programs in which the post has participated.
- A post must have a financial need. Please provide a summary of the financial needs of the post.
- A post must provide a certificate of insurance naming The American National Headquarters as an additional insured. A copy of insurance declaration must be attached to application.
- A post must provide documentation indicating that the post is properly incorporated. Please provide the incorporation number or business number of the post for verification. You may also provide a copy of your most recent Biennial Report or a Certificate of Existence from the Secretary of State.

The funds from this grant program shall be used exclusively for the following:

- Current and past due mortgage principal and interest or
- Current and past due real estate rents or
- Current and past due insurance premiums or
- Current and past due utilities.

The American Legion posts receiving this grant are required to submit a true and accurate report outlining how the funds were used within six-months of receipt of the grant funds or no later than February 22, 2022, whichever comes first.

The fillable application form with the instruction sheet is available online at <https://www.ialegion.org/mission-blue-post-assistance-program/>.

BOYS STATE

The American Legion of Iowa Boys State Board of Directors voted to go in person at their next meeting on March 27, 2021. Please read the board's memo and check with your District Board Member for further details. The Delegate Registration and Post Refund Request Deadline has been extended to April 15, 2021.

The American Legion of Iowa Boys State program will be held June 13 – 18, 2021, at Camp Dodge. Delegates must check-in before 12:00 pm (noon) on Sunday, June 13, at the pool house.

Legionnaires and guests are invited to attend final assembly on Friday, June 18 at 11:45 am. The final assembly includes the announcements of scholarship winners and the Boys Nation Senators.

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Updates are available from your District Boys State Chairman. Please consult with them first before contacting Headquarters.

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

DISTRICT COMMANDER ORIENTATION – June 4, 2021

The District Commander Orientation will be held at Department Headquarters from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Lunch will be provided. This session is for 2021-2022 District Commanders and candidates for Department and Detachment Commander.

DEPARTMENT LEADERSHIP SCHOOL – June 4-6, 2021

The Department Leadership School will be held June 4-6, 2021, at the Holiday Inn Mercy Campus in Des Moines. The school will run on Friday from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.; Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and Sunday from 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

The Department will cover the cost of six (6) attendees per District, one of which should be the incoming District Commander. This includes room (based on double occupancy), course materials, breakfast and lunch on Saturday and breakfast on Sunday. Department will not reimburse attendees for mileage or per diem. District authorized attendees should register online at <https://www.ialegion.org/leadershipschool/>.

Endorsed candidates for Department and National offices are also invited to attend at Department expense. Candidates are in addition to the six allocated for each District. Candidates may register online at <https://www.ialegion.org/leadershipschool/>.

Any attendee requesting his/her own room will be required to pay entire room charge of \$85.00 + 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. Additional attendees may register online at <https://www.ialegion.org/leadershipschool/>.

Newly elected 2021-2022 District Commanders must submit the List of Authorized Attendees for your District before May 10, 2021. Individual registrations are due no later than May 15, 2021.

DEPARTMENT CONVENTION – JULY 8 – 11, 2021 – DES MOINES

All meetings will be held at the Holiday Inn Des Moines Airport and Conference Center. Ask for The American Legion rate when making reservations. Schedule will appear in the Iowa Legionnaire and will also be available on the Department website. The Call to Convention and Post Delegate Strength information will be mailed to posts 30 days prior to Department Convention.

Holiday Inn Des Moines Airport and Conference Center
6111 Fleur Dr.
Des Moines, IA 50321
(515) 287-2400
Rate: \$98.00

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DEPARTMENT CONVENTION COMMITTEES

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

DEPARTMENT COLOR GUARD COMPETITION

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

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

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

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

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

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

NATIONAL CONVENTION – AUGUST 27–SEPTEMBER 2, 2021 – PHOENIX, AZ

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

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

The Department of Iowa will be housed in Hyatt Regency Phoenix. The room rate is \$123.00 + tax per night for up to four occupants. Valet Parking is \$37.00/day and self-parking is \$23.00/day.

The Iowa Party will be held at American Legion Post 1. Tickets are \$30.00 each and include a meal and entertainment. Tickets must be ordered in advance.

Entertainment for the National Commander's Banquet will be provided by Craig Morgan. Tickets are \$52.00 and must be purchased in advance. Seating will be limited.

IOWA WALK FOR VETERANS – AUGUST 16, 2021

The American Legion Walk for Veterans will be during the Veterans Parade at the Iowa State Fair on August 16, 2021, at the Iowa State Fairgrounds. The parade begins at 11:00 am and participants are asked to be in the staging area before 10:00 am.

All participants must register (free registration) with The American Legion of Iowa before July 10, 2021 and must wear The American Legion Walk for Veterans shirt. The cost of the shirt is \$10.00. Shirts from previous years may be worn. All parade participants will receive free entry into the Iowa State Fair. Parking is not included.

Registration information can be found at <https://www.ialegion.org/wfv/>.

NATIONAL LEGION COLLEGE FOR 2021 CLASS

National Legion College will be held December 12-17, 2021. The Department of Iowa is currently seeking two candidates. The application is available on our website at www.ialegion.org/legion-college or by request from Department headquarters.

Candidates must have completed The American Legion Basic Training. Applications for Legion College are due to Department Headquarters before July 1.

THE AMERICAN LEGION BASIC TRAINING

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

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

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

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VETERANS EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION AWARDS

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

The awards include:

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

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

The deadline for submittals to the Department Veterans Benefits Committee is October 15. It is important that the Post nominations are submitted by this time to ensure that they are considered for the Department Awards to be delivered at the Department Convention. The Department selects one nominee in each category as its winner and submits the winners for the National awards.

Forms and criteria are available on our website at <https://www.ialegion.org/employmentawards/>.

CONSOLIDATED POST REPORTS

The Consolidated Post Reports (CPR) were mailed to each Post Adjutant on record. The Consolidated Post Report must be returned on the correct annual form to Department Headquarters, or submitted through myLegion.org (preferred), before June 15 to be considered for Department Community Service and Children & Youth Awards. Eligible posts selected will be awarded during Department Convention. Posts wishing to be considered for Community Service and Children & Youth Awards need to provide a narrative of their activities with their CPR submission. Narratives may be submitted separately if your post's CPR is submitted electronically.

LEGIONNAIRE OF THE YEAR

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

AMERICAN LEGION OF IOWA ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

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

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AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL

Senior teams will be competing in 1 of 4 Area Tournaments April 24-25, 2021 in different locations of the state. Winners will advance to the State Tournament scheduled for May 1-2, 2021 in Ames sponsored by Ames Post #37. Details regarding team schedules for the tournaments are available on the Department's website.

ORATORICAL CONTEST

The Department of Iowa's High School Oratorical Contest was held Sunday, February 14, 2021, the last day of Mid-Winter Conference. First place was awarded to Joseph Junker of Waukee, Iowa. Joseph represented Sixth District and Area 1 as their finalist. Joseph is a Junior at Van Meter High School. The title of his prepared oration is The Constitution and The Fearless American Identity. Joseph is the son of Vincent Junker and Chris O'Hern and was sponsored by Van Meter American Legion Post #403 in Van Meter.

Runner up honors went to Madeline Becker of Glenwood, Iowa. Madeline is a senior at Glenwood Community High School and was sponsored by Harvey T. Rimel American Legion Post #141 in Glenwood. Madeline represented Seventh District and Area 3 as their finalist.

Third place finish went to Nathan Stanish of Eldora, Iowa. Nathan is a home-schooled senior of Stanish Academy and was sponsored by Walter Sayer American Legion Post #182 in Eldora. Nathan represented Third District and Area 2 as their finalist.

As is customary, the Department's Oratorical Champion advances to The American Legion's National Oratorical Contest held in Indianapolis, Indiana for an opportunity at winning a substantial scholarship of \$25,000. However, it was announced that the national contest was cancelled for the second year in a row due to COVID-19. It was again a difficult decision made by national leadership. As a consolation, each Department Finalist who would have competed on the national stage will be given an academic scholarship of \$5,000.

SCOUTING

First Place winner of a \$2,000 scholarship goes to Jacob Becker of Johnston, Iowa. Jacob belongs to Troop 44 of Urbandale. His nomination has been forwarded for consideration at the national level, where he is eligible for an additional \$10,000 scholarship. The Department did not receive additional submissions.

FIFTH GRADE FLAG ESSAY CONTEST

The Fifth-Grade Flag Essay Contest winners were judged by the Department Children and Youth Committee. First place went to Shelby Delagardelle of Jesup Elementary in Jesup, Iowa. Shelby is a student of Lauren Weepie and the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Delagardelle. Shelby was sponsored by Pump-Schiers American Legion Post #342 in Jesup and District 4. Runner up went to Jenna Grovert of Central Lutheran Elementary in Newhall, Iowa. Jenna is a student of Tonya Schanbacher and daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Grovert. Jenna was sponsored by Ray and Virginia Boyer American Legion Post #166 in Shellsburg and District 3. Third place went to Luke Vandermark of Moravia Elementary in Moravia, Iowa. Luke is a student of Nicole Beaty and son of Mr. and Mrs. Vandermark. Luke was sponsored by Wil-Rog Mor American Legion Post #407 in Unionville and District 5.

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JUNIOR SHOOTING SPORTS

The Department Championship, a 3-Position Air Rifle competition, was held Saturday, March 20, 2021 at Camp Dodge. Clubs were from Lake Park, Swisher, Lone Tree, Muscatine, Ely, and Des Moines.

Ayden Wells (Des Moines Post #374) First Place Overall
Cecilia Zaragoza (Des Moines Post #374) Second Place Overall
Tha Da (Des Moines Post #374) Third Place Overall
Ayden Wells (Des Moines Post #374) Age Category 1 – First
Cecilia Zaragoza (Des Moines Post #374) Age Category 1 – Second
Tha Da (Des Moines Post #374) Age Category 1 – Third
Hope Dobek (Des Moines Post #374) Age Category 2 – First
Anna Zaragoza (Des Moines Post #374) Age Category 2 – Second
Kiara Hallett (Muscatine Post #27) Age Category 2 – Third
Hailey Asbe (Swisher Post #671) Age Category 3 – First
Shyan Ruckerfellow (Lone Tree Post #457) Age Category 3 – Second
Kadence Gillen (Ely Post #555) Age Category 3 – Third
North High School (Des Moines Post #374) First Place Team
Swisher Sharpshooter (Swisher Post #671) Second Place Team
Mumm’s Jr. Rifles (Lone Tree Post #457) Third Place Team

LEGIONCARE NO COST AD&D INSURANCE

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

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

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

DEPARTMENT CONTACT INFORMATION

The American Legion of Iowa	(800) 365-8387	www.ialegion.org
720 Lyon Street	(515) 282-5068	info@ialegion.org
Des Moines, IA 50309	(515) 282-7583 (fax)	