



# THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF IOWA IOWA LEGIONNAIRE & Auxiliary Communiqué

An Official Publication of The American Legion, Department of Iowa: June 2021

## Dubuque County Three-peat

The American Legion of Iowa would like to offer its congratulations to Dubuque County American Legion Baseball on their placement as the department's winners. This is the third year in a row, not counting 2020 due to COVID-19 cancellation, that Dubuque County has claimed department bragging rights. Dubuque County American Legion Baseball is sponsored by Cascade Post #528, Dubuque Post #6, Dyersville Post #137, Epworth Post #650, and Farley Post #656. They will advance to the regionals playing in Sioux Falls this August, and with some luck, the American Legion World Series in Shelby. Best of luck to you all.

American Legion of Iowa Baseball was missing something that has been a longstanding tradition, the Earl H. and Esther J. Proctor MVP Award. The American Legion of Iowa has appreciated

the Proctor family taking their time and resources to travel and evaluate teams and players who participate in the Department Tournament. The Proctor brothers have made near 55 appearances to the tournament, selecting a recipient of the MVP Award.

The family understandably will no longer be carrying on this tradition. Their presence will leave a void in the program. The baseball committee will be carrying the torch as they meet over the summer to put in place a new award for the program.

Congratulations to the Carroll County Merchants as the department's runner up. Other teams that earned a spot to play in the tournament were Ames, Gilbert, Hiawatha, and Merville. The American Legion of Iowa Baseball Committee



Dubuque County with Department Commander Jim Kessler and the Championship Trophy

would like to thank all the teams for their participation in the program this past season. The American Legion and The American Legion, Department of Iowa are grateful for your dedication to the sport of baseball, the players, and the ideals of the organization. You all have much to be proud of representing this organization.



Left to right are Fort Dodge Post #130 Commander Tom Dorsey, Marketing Chairman Jim Peterson, and 8th District Commander Elect Ken Fields. They are pictured at the recent Home and Garden Show at Fort Dodge. A lot of information was given out at the two-day event and 5 new Legion members signed up. Very good and simple event to participate in.

## Marketing Committee Report for the Summer Legionnaire

The summer season is upon us and the opportunity for us to be on display and show the people of Iowa what we do and the programs that we have, is now here.

Please have a booth or table at your local farmers markets, car shows, county fairs or any other type of public event. If it's only for one day or two, it is well worth the time invested and very easy to do. We have all the materials for you to present at your event at our Department Headquarters, you just need to contact us, and we'll get them to you. If you need people to help, let us know.

We have The American Legion 100 miles for Hope event. You can 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 to sign up. Download the "Free Kilter App," in the app store. Choose sign in (top right), go to events tab > My event (100 Miles for Hope) will automatically come up. You have already registered. Don't forget to set your goal! Tell everyone that you're participating in The American Legion's 100 Miles for Hope that raises funds to support veterans and military families. You can share your story on Legiontown. All the proceeds go to support the Veterans and Children's Foundation. Wear your shirt out in the public and tell the story of our programs and what we do every day for our veterans, their families, and our communities. We recently did a two-day event in Fort Dodge. Lots of folks in attendance and many were Legion Family members. Sadly, so many of them didn't know about the accidental death benefit that comes with their membership. We educated them on that benefit and other programs that we have. It was easy to do and if anyone has an opportunity to be at any of the local events in their community, please do it. Let us know if you need assistance that is what we are here for.

Don't forget to get signed up for the walk at the State Fair in August. Tee shirts are available and there is no better way for us to be seen by so many than at the Fair.

There is a change coming up at our convention, if approved by the DEC, the Marketing Committee and the Iowa American Legion Press Association will be merging to form one committee, but it will then be voted on by the delegates at the state convention. I'm in favor of this merger. Let me know of your thoughts on this merger.

Jim Peterson, Marketing Committee Chairman

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## DEADLINES & DATES

<b>June 4</b>
District Commander Orientation Department Headquarters
<b>June 4-6</b>
Department Leadership School - Des Moines
<b>June 13-18</b>
Boys State - Camp Dodge
<b>June 15</b>
Consolidated Post Reports Due Legionnaire of the Year Nominations Due
<b>June 19</b>
Juneteenth
<b>June 20</b>
Father's Day
<b>June 25</b>
Department Finance Meeting
<b>June 26</b>
DEC Luncheon & Meeting - Department HQ
<b>July 4</b>
Independence Day
<b>July 5</b>
Department Offices Closed
<b>July 9-11</b>
Department Convention - Airport Holiday Inn, Des Moines
<b>July 12</b>
Department Offices Closed
<b>July 28-30</b>
National DSO School - Indianapolis
<b>July 29 - August 1</b>
National Membership Workshop - Indianapolis
<b>August 15</b>
Fall Legionnaire Articles Due
<b>August 27 - September 2</b>
National Convention - Phoenix, AZ
<b>September 1</b>
History Books Due
<b>September 6</b>
Labor Day
Department Offices Closed
<b>September 15</b>
Post Officer Forms Due to Department
<b>September 16</b>
American Legion Day
<b>October 3-7</b>
National Fall Meetings - Indianapolis



@iowalegion



**The American Legion, Department of Iowa**

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

**American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Iowa**

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

**Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Iowa**

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

**2020-2021 American Legion Department Officers**

<b>Commander</b>		
James Kessler	Lake Park	commander@ialegion.org
<b>Vice Commanders</b>		
Bob Waugh	Libertyville	bobwaugh89@gmail.com
Bob Onken	Osage	jbelect@osage.net
Dick Hogan	Cedar Rapids	dehogan@earthlink.net
Darrin Alderson	Oskaloosa	darrin.alderon3@gmail.com
Joe Jardon	Shenandoah	jmjardon2747@gmail.com
<b>Adjutant</b>		
John A. Derner	Granger	john@ialegion.org
<b>Service Officer</b>		
Shane Pankonen	Des Moines	shane.pankonen@va.gov
<b>Finance Officer</b>		
Ken Danilson	Woodward	kendanilson@gmail.com
<b>Judge Advocate</b>		
Dwight Dinkla	Panora	ddinkla@iowabar.org
<b>Historian</b>		
Vacant		
<b>Chaplain</b>		
James Fenceroy	Sioux City	jamesfenceroy@msn.com
<b>Sergeant-At-Arms</b>		
Stan Elliott	Nevada	sdejae@gmail.com
<b>National Executive Committeeman</b>		
Jerry Sebben	Waukee	nec@ialegion.org
<b>Alternate National Executive Committeeman</b>		
Dennis Soppe	West Union	anec@ialegion.org
<b>Past Department Commanders</b>		
Ken Rochholz	Walcott	rocky02288@msn.com
Mike Etzel	Marion	dimikey@hotmail.com
J. Scott Moline	Urbandale	smoline@purdueglobal.edu

**2020-2021 District Commanders**

<b>1st</b>	Steve Colcord	West Branch
	563-241-8445	firstdistrict@ialegion.org
<b>2nd</b>	Roger Norfolk	Cedar Rapids
	319-651-0977	seconddistrict@ialegion.org
<b>3rd</b>	Dave Travis	Shellsburg
	319-436-2217	thirddistrict@ialegion.org
<b>4th</b>	Dan Boberg	Fayette
	563-419-0459	fourthdistrict@ialegion.org
<b>5th</b>	Randy Johnson	Deep River
	641-510-2425	fifthdistrict@ialegion.org
<b>6th</b>	Robert Colin	Des Moines
	515-253-9629	sixthdistrict@ialegion.org
<b>7th</b>	Gary Whipple	Thurman
	712-313-0126	seventhdistrict@ialegion.org
<b>8th</b>	Tom Ryan	Wesley
	515-341-7926	eighthdistrict@ialegion.org
<b>9th</b>	David Honse	Rock Valley
	712-470-2299	ninthdistrict@ialegion.org

**Department Service Office**

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

**Claims Representatives**

Michele Lammers Melissa Kauzlarich  
Heather Owens Shane Pankonen  
Alyssa Flood

**Department Headquarters Staff Directory**

<b>Adjutant</b>	John Derner	john@ialegion.org
<b>Exec Sec./Membership</b>	Ann Haack	ann@ialegion.org
<b>Programs Director</b>	Ryan Kowlessar	ryan@ialegion.org
<b>Business Manager</b>	Teresa Shaw	teresa@ialegion.org
<b>General Information</b>		info@ialegion.org

**Auxiliary Department Staff Directory**

<b>Executive Director</b>	
Crystal Wright	alasectreas@ialegion.org
<b>Membership</b>	
Jeannie McKeever	alamembership@ialegion.org
<b>Accounting</b>	
Rachael Schmidt	alaaccounting@ialegion.org

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**Department Commander**  
James B. Kessler

Greeting: As you read this article, I hope everyone had a successful

Memorial Day program of some nature. Memorial Day this year is not any different than other years. We still honored those who had served and have passed on before us, their service to our country allowed us the opportunity to do the same and that is why we took time out of our schedule to recognize and to commemorate their service to our country's flag.

We have 30 days to finish renewing and retaining those members that so far have chosen not to renew their 2021 membership into this great organization. Let us not put those memberships aside feeling why should we have to continue to ask them to renew their membership. When we talk to them and ask them to renew their membership with the American Legion, in doing this we need to be asking why they have chosen not to renew their membership? By asking perhaps we can learn what the problem is or why they chose not to renew, by doing this we open the door for an opportunity to resolve an issue that perhaps is bugging them or causing them not to renew. As you are trying to resolve the issue, remember to also listen and remind them of the great things the American Legion does for any veteran whether they are a member of the Legion or not, and the biggest part of what the American Legion does for all veterans comes out of our veteran's service office. The dedicated staff of our service office is one of the best of all departments throughout the American Legion. They really do care about the veterans their issues, for their spouses and dependents issues as well.

May 22nd your commander went to South Sioux City to participate in the handoff of a flag denoting the naming of Hwy 20 to be officially known as the Medal of Honor Highway. Your commander and other representatives of the American Legion will be participating in this stellar event and will be passing the flag on later to Illinois' delegation continuing the naming of Hwy 20 across the United States of America to be known as the Medal of Honor Highway. I look forward to this opportunity to represent the Department of Iowa in recognizing those names who served their country earning this great honor for their service, to be never forgotten.

Since mid-March of 2020 to March of 2021, COVID-19 really disrupted many activities we considered normal and would always be there. But the resilience of the American Legion Posts throughout the Department of Iowa has shown we are not down for long, as good old American ingenuity prevails allowing certain programs and activities to be carried on with just a bit different aspect than we were used to. I command the American Legion Family for all they have done to help their communities maintain somewhat of a normal atmosphere that surrounds their local American Legion Post.

June 4th through the 6th is our leadership school being held at Holiday Inn Mercy Campus, I look forward to seeing many of you there as you demonstrate your willingness to learn more about the American Legion

*Continued on the next page*



**Department Adjutant**  
John A. Derner

Your staff and I are busy planning several upcoming American Legion events, to include District Commander Orientation, Department Leadership School, Boys State, Department Convention and National Convention. I am excited because each of these events last year was either cancelled or postponed to a later date.

I am excited because we are once again planning in-person events. Yes, some of these events will still look and feel a little different than they have in the past, but they will be much closer to the normal so many of us desperately seek.

Vaccines are readily available to those who want them. COVID-19 restrictions continue to be lifted. And more of us are engaging in activities that have been restrained in the past year. We are emerging from the world of COVID-19 with hope. Hope for a brighter future.

I look forward to reuniting with old friends and making new ones. I look forward to the camaraderie and personal interaction that has been stifled in the past year. We are now able to focus on what we can do, and not what we cannot do.

COVID-19 taught us ways to conduct business remotely. We learned to use tools such as Zoom, Teams, GoTo Meeting, WebEx and other online platforms. I suspect we will continue to use those platforms in some cases to save time and money, but they are no longer our only option for conducting business.

So many of our meetings and events are more effective as in-person events. The ability to thoroughly discuss items of business without the restrictions that technology presented. The ability to have side conversations to ensure we are making the best decisions. The ability to judge members' reactions more reliably. In-person meetings and events allow us these opportunities.

Each of you must evaluate your own risk and make your own decisions regarding your health and safety. But I am excited that we now have the opportunity to participate. I look forward to each of these events and I believe all of them will have a renewed enthusiasm.

As I stated earlier, we are now able to focus on what we can do and not what we cannot do. As we continue our department efforts to move beyond COVID-19, I hope your post, county and district continue to do the same. We need activities and events to keep our organization strong.

Many posts found ways to continue to provide services to your communities during this time. I hope we all emerge from COVID-19 restrictions with new ways to serve our members, our veterans and our communities.

This has been a difficult time for all of us. It has had an enormous impact on our lives and our organization. But we are finally seeing some light at the end of the tunnel. We see hope for a brighter future. I look forward to the opportunities ahead of us, and I look forward to gathering with my friends and comrades once again.

**www.ialegion.org**



### National Executive Committeeman Jerry Sebben

Greetings Fellow Legionnaires,  
I want to thank the Districts for their fellowship and greetings given to Alternate NEC Dennis

Soppe and me at your Spring Conferences. We had an outstanding time.

I want to congratulate all the Post and District Officers taking on new positions this year. Those of you who accepted the challenge of leadership are now tasked with planning your upcoming year. One of the programs offered at Department is our Leadership School this spring. Please find time to attend. It is a rewarding time.

Our Washington D.C. Conference, our Spring meetings and the National Executive Committee meeting were held by teleconference. One of our agenda items was titled Peer Support. Studies have shown that peer support is mutually beneficial for people who are experiencing transitions and mental health concerns. The American Legion has a peer-support program called Buddy Check and we are urging Congress to pass legislation requiring the VA to implement a similar program.

In March we received word that our own Senator Joni Ernst is submitting a bill that would direct the Department Of Veterans Affairs to designate one week per year as "Buddy Check Week" to organize outreach events and educate veterans on how to conduct peer wellness checks.

This bill is a bipartisan effort by Senator Maggie

Hassen (D-N.H.) and Senator Joni Ernst. Please contact your representative to support this bill.

Summer is upon us and that means Department Convention is right around the corner. I hope everyone is making plans to attend. I also hope everyone was able to observe Memorial Day activities. It is one day we are able to recognize the sacrifice our fellow veterans made for us and our country.

I would like to share this with all of you:

"The Measure of a Man or Women...

may be their willingness to serve their country"

"The Measure of a Country...

may be its willingness to honor those who served"

For God and Country,  
Jerry D Sebben, NEC



### Department Service Officer Shane Pankonen

#### Blue Water Navy law and Decision on Nehmer

On June 25, 2019, Public Law 116-23, Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019, was signed into law. This law went into effect on January 1, 2020.

The new law:

- Expands the presumption of exposure to Agent Orange to Veterans who served on vessels operating not more than 12 nautical miles seaward from the demarcation line of the waters of Vietnam and Cambodia, between January 9, 1962, and May 7, 1975. The law may also qualify these Veterans for a presumption of service connection. To be entitled to disability compensation benefits, these Veterans

must have one or more of the conditions associated with Agent Orange exposure.

- May allow previously denied claimants whose claims are granted under PL 116-23 to be eligible for a retroactive effective date.

- Moves the start date to be eligible for a presumption of service connection based on herbicide exposure in the Korean Demilitarized Zone from April 1, 1968 to September 1, 1967.

- May provide benefits for spina bifida (except spina bifida occulta) to children of Veterans with covered service in Thailand between January 9, 1962 and May 7, 1975.

On November 5, 2020, the United States District Court for the Northern District of California held that, pursuant to the Nehmer Consent Decree, VA must automatically re-adjudicate previously filed claims based on Blue Water Navy Veterans' (BWN) presumed exposure to Agent Orange. The court's decision requires automatic re-adjudication in such

cases without requiring a new claim, and potentially paying benefits to the estates of deceased Veterans.

Beginning in April 2021, VBA is sending letters to BWN Veterans and survivors who have a previously decided claim involving the Veteran's or survivor's entitlement to benefits for one or more Agent Orange-related presumptive conditions.

"The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) will review previously decided claims that may qualify for retroactive benefits for Blue Water Navy (BWN) Veterans who served offshore of the Republic of Vietnam. Veterans and survivors who were previously denied entitlement to benefits based on an Agent Orange-related presumptive condition will automatically have their claim reviewed."

If you have any other questions about this benefit, you may contact the American Legion Service Office and we will be glad to assist you. We can be contacted at 515- 323-7532 for questions regarding this benefit or any VA benefits.



### Sons of The American Legion Detachment Commander Mike Monserud

As things are starting to return to some source of normalcy, I want you to remember to check up on the members who have not

renewed, and make sure that they have no unmet needs. Make sure to remind them how important their membership is, because we are supporting the American Legion to assist Veterans in the state of Iowa process over 64% of all applications of VA claims.

When it comes to the matter of membership, I am hopeful by the time you read this, that National has

the new membership program up and running. As of right now I cannot provide what our membership is because it has been over a month since a report has come from National.

Our Detachment Convention will be at the Airport Holiday Inn, in Des Moines on Saturday July 10th. I hope we get a large turnout as I will guess the weather will be a lot better. It will be an election meeting where every position is open for elections. If you are interested in any of the positions, I ask you get an endorsement from your Squadron and send it in to the Detachment Adjutant at kesslerb@mchsi.com. You can also run off the floor. This is your chance to come and vote who will lead the Detachment next year.

I look forward to seeing Sons in Des Moines as it will be my last time holding the gavel. It has been extremely rewarding and my honor to lead the Detachment. I would like to think I have steered the Detachment down the path to make it more successful. We have charted 10 new Squadrons, won the Triple Nickel Award, and won every National membership award that we were eligible for. I am asking that you continue to support the new slate of Detachment Officers and help to continue to make the Iowa SAL successful and keep carrying on the mission of honor the legacy of the Veteran that you joined under.

Commander Mike

#### Commander's article continued from previous page

programs and how they can be administered to other Legionnaires to further the greatness of the American Legion in serving their communities with many great programs we are proud of, by this information to your post members and those post around you.

July 9th through the 11th is the dates for your Department of Iowa American Legion Convention, I look forward to this time when we all can be back together again conducting the business of the American Legion with the election of new officers, any other business deemed necessary for the body of the American Legion to take care of. Your Department staff has been working diligently to be prepared for the upcoming meetings and events at

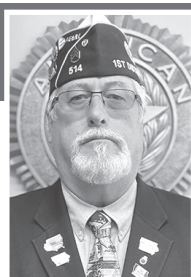
your Department Convention, which will be held at the Airport Holiday Inn Des Moines Iowa. With great expectation, the pleasure, of being your Department Commander, I look forward to this opportunity of conducting the business of our Department and for the good of the American Legion and its members. The Blue Caps of this organization are the key to the success at any level of The American Legion and are recognized for their commitment to the veterans, veterans' spouses, dependents, and their communities.

I encourage you to please remember your commanders project which is the purchase of park benches for the residents to use and enjoy outside

at The Iowa Veterans Home in Marshalltown, Iowa. These items are not funded by the state. Thank you to those who have donated generously to this project and I hope those posts and members who have not, will see the need and have the desire to give to the commander's project.

My symbol is the Phoenix, which destroy itself by fire only to reemerge anew from its ashes, as we The American Family have accomplish likewise during COVID - 19, to Rise, Stronger and Wiser.

For God and Country,  
Commander Jim



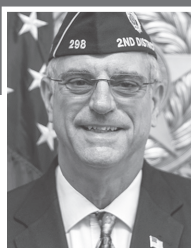
### 1st District Commander Steve Colcord

My dear Legionnaires,  
We are really getting a head start on the virus and a lot of the posts are opening up and the traveling is getting better. My second term as your District Commander has really

been fun and interesting. We have gone through a lot together, but we have made it with the help of the department and district. We are getting ready for Leadership School, Department Convention, and National Convention which is right around the corner. The First District is starting the new year with new officers and I wish them all the luck in the world. First District has completed their spring conference and the attendance was great. A lot was done and taken care

of. I want to thank Muscatine Post #27 and the Auxiliary for hosting the great event and putting on a great meal. Finally, I want to thank all my district officers for a great and enjoyable two years. Hope to see you all at the Department Convention in July.

For God and Country,  
Steve Colcord



### 2nd District Commander Roger Norfolk

Hello to the Second District and all members of the American Legion Family.

2nd District elections were held, and Gerald (Jerry) Becker of Dyersville will be the 2021-2022 Commander. His officers and chairs of committees are pretty much in place. It should be another good year. When you see this, Consolidated Post Reports will be due soon. Last year we got 100% reports in on time and it would be

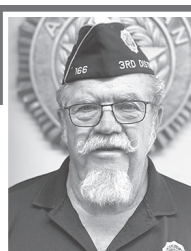
great if we could do it again. MyLegion is struggling, it may make the timely submission more difficult. If you are waiting to submit the CPR or memberships on MyLegion's becoming functional – DON'T. We worked from paper not long ago. Buckle down and get those in soonest.

This will be my last message as commander, and I'd like to share my opinions on a way to work membership. First, for all new members to your post, assign a mentor/buddy to keep in touch about events, meetings, and answer their questions. We lose a lot of members that are in 5 years or less as they never felt engaged with the post. We can really help to fix that.

Next, when you are looking for potential members, go back as far as you can to check with those who have dropped. They may have just fallen through the cracks. My last point is related – Buddy Checks. There are many ways to make Buddy Checks work for your post. Contact more than just the older members. I had a post commander call to check up on me – the young whippersnapper. I really appreciated it, Jeff.

I'll still be around, and opinions are still free.

Veterans Strengthening America  
Roger



### 3rd District Commander Dave Travis

Greetings from the Third District. Many hands made our goals possible this year. With our communities shut down, I did not get to visit all the posts I wanted

to this year. In 1919, when the Legion was born, they had their issues too with the Spanish Influenza. This year was very similar to then as we were in quarantine, wearing masks, and longing for normalcy to return. Business and leisure activities were shut down and/or cancelled, the derecho in Iowa, forest fires in the west,

tornados in the south and severe weather throughout our nation all made this past year memorable. Our attack on our nation's capital was also a big headline this year. As we battle this new virus, we have lost more people to it than all the wars combined. We can win this battle, GET VACCINATED!

I have a challenge for every member of our organization. Ask one veteran to join the American Legion this year. As a Legion member, you have a huge support staff behind you to help you locally, state, and nationally. On Memorial Day, we remember the great people who fought for this country. Yes, some of them gave their all. In 1921, the body of an unknown soldier was laid to rest in the Tomb of the Unknown in our nation's capital. Now modern science can use DNA to

identify our lost soldiers. History shows us 100 years later the lust for evil and power is still present today as it was in the past. A constant reminder a challenge to our way of life is always present.

This summer as things start to get back to normal, give Jeff Large, the new Third District Commander your support. Lastly and most importantly, I want to take an important moment to thank all the members of Third District for their help and support this year. Without all of you, our Third District goals would not have been achievable.

For God and Country,  
Dave Travis



### 4th District Commander Dan Boberg

Greetings to the Fourth District and all Legionnaires,

As I sit here and write my last message to you as District Commander, I look back on all the events and fundraisers I was able to attend, in the past three years, and three years as a District Vice Commander. I remember the people that I had the opportunity to meet and talk to, saw how posts ran the meeting, and some difficult decisions that had to be made. It takes good comradery for members and

the officers for those things to happen. TOGETHER EVERYONE ACHIEVES MUCH MORE.

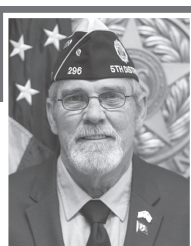
I would like to introduce your new District Commander for those who were unable to attend the Spring Conference. He is Fritz Kies from Jesup, Iowa and a former District Vice Commander. Fritz is well versed in computer skills and is familiar with the different programs the Legion offers to members, posts, and our youth. I am looking forward to working with him and the Fourth District. I am sure he will be coming up with some fresh new ideas and that is good.

On another note, we are still looking for a District Vice Commander for our Central Zone, which would

cover Allamakee, Chickasaw, Winneshiek, and Fayette counties. This would be 20 Legion Posts. This would cover assisting the District Commander and making meetings (when you would be available).

If you have any further questions about this position, call me (563-419-0459) or Fritz (319-493-1848) and leave a message if you want to be called back. Too many robo-calls. Fritz and I have experienced this position and will help you get started if you are interested. Remember: T E A M.

For God and Country,  
Dan Boberg



### 5th District Commander Randy Johnson

Hello District 5,

By the time you read this article our 2021 membership year will be ending. It's been a seesaw battle all year with all nine districts as few percentage points separated the top from the bottom. When we started the year, our membership goal was simple - District 5 needed to maintain our membership numbers from 2020. We needed to renew every available member, recruit every eligible Veteran, and transfer as many Headquarters 729's as possible. So far, we've come close to doing that. With just a handful of membership reports left, we're sitting at 40 members shy with what we ended with in June 2020. Please keep plugging away to get all your members

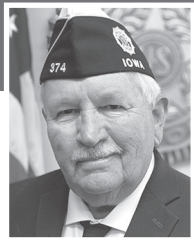
renewed, and the end result could end a decade of a membership decline in District 5. The success of our District, and Department Legion Family depends on it. As we close out 2021, let's go out with bang.

There's a lot coming up this summer. We should all be prepared for our summer programs as we approach Memorial Day, Flag Day, and the 4th of July. Those coupled with our annual local celebrations will keep us all busy and will go off without a hitch if well planned. Leadership School is June 4th-6th, the Department of Iowa Convention is July 9th-11th, and National Convention is Aug 27th-Sept 2nd in Phoenix Az.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention my last two years as your District Commander. All I wanted to do was leave our District just a little better than I found it, and I believe I have. I knew I had to build on a plan that Past District Commander Darrin Alderson

started. I truly believe we quietly self-revitalized by increasing our communications with our Posts, keeping you all well aware of what was happening at all levels of the Legion, making some Post visits, and getting the District Officers and Staff more involved in membership building. We all worked hard and now it's time to move on. Once sworn in at the Department Convention, your new Commander Sam Blumer from Centerville Post #214 will carry on where we left off. We've got a bright future, but it's going to take every Legionnaire and all 49 Posts in District 5 to build our Legion Family. My personal plan is to help Sam and his Officers and Staff make that happen by making myself available in the future. There's more to come on just how I'll be available, but I'm looking forward to continuing to work with all of you in 2021-2022.

For God and Country,  
Randy Johnson



### 6th District Commander Bob Colin

Mid-Winter, Spring Conference and here we are rushing towards the State Convention in July. This is my last time writing an article for the Legionnaire as my term of District Commander draws to a close. You will have new District Officers coming into office at the State Convention: Jennifer Monserud Post #37 (Commander), Crystal Wright Post #158 (Vice Commander), Dale Daughenbaugh Post #689 (Vice Commander), and Chuck Clow Post #562 (Vice Commander). The new 6th District Officers are young, smart, with strong computer skills to lead the 6th District forward in 2021-2022. It has been an honor to

serve as District Commander and to serve as an officer of the American Legion.

6th District has supported our youth programs this past year:

1. Joseph Junker of Waukee is the State Winner American Legion of Iowa High School Oratorical Champion. (State Scholarship \$2000.00 plus National Scholarship \$5000.00)

2. Ayden Wells of Des Moines is the State Winner American Legion of Iowa Junior Shooting Sports Champion. (\$2000.00 Scholarship)

3. Cecilia Zaragoza State 2nd place Junior Shooting Champion (\$1500.00 Scholarship)

4. Tha Dah 3rd Place Champion Junior Shooting (\$1000.00 Scholarship)

These Remarkable young people from 6th District are succeeding at high levels. Congratulations on representing 6th District at State and National levels.

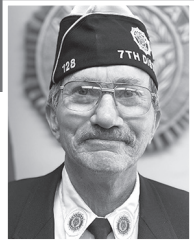
If your Post has not signed up for the MISSION BLUE program which is a \$1000.00 grant to support your post during the Covid pandemic, please do so now. If you have questions or need help reach out to 6th District Officers.

6th District voted to raise district dues by 75 cents at the Spring Conference, raising dues to \$2.00. Please make sure your post increases the dues accordingly.

6th District has a raffle going on currently to help support Veterans and youth programs in 6th District. Is your post selling tickets? If not, contact a 6th District Officer to get tickets for your post. As Commander, I have currently sold 100 tickets. Carry tickets with you and ask, "Do you want to buy a ticket?"

Memorial Day is coming up. Make sure to get your communities involved in your programs.

For God and Country,  
Bob Colin



### 7th District Commander Gary Whipple

My Fellow Legionnaires,  
Since this is my last article, I will try to wrap up my year as Commander of the 7th District.

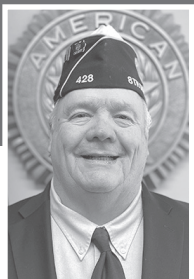
I think we had pretty good year

considering the pandemic. We had a good fall conference, also a good spring conference. It was a great learning experience for me. In the process I learned how to get on meetings with Zoom. I think that may be normal instead of driving 2 or 3 hours for a meeting. It was a busy year.

I would like to thank the people that gave me advice along the way to help me, that was greatly appreciated.

We are going to the Department Convention in July when the newly elected District Commander will take over on the last day of the Convention. I wish Amy Muse good luck in her adventure as Commander of the 7th District.

For God and Country,  
Gary Whipple



### 8th District Commander Tom Ryan

It was the Best of times; it was the Worst of times. How does one sum up the two years in office? On the bright side of the past three months working backwards I will start off with how many of our posts have opened and picked up where they left off prior to COVID. Post meetings are once again, being held as "normal". Memorial Day activities being conducted throughout the district.

Also, in May we acknowledged our Mothers, Wives, Sisters, significant others for their designated day. April came around and we enjoyed the Egg hunts, Easter Bunny and the family gathering for a fine meal as we celebrated Easter Sunday. The Eighth District held its Spring Conference in Wesley, the home of District Commander Tom Ryan. Many thanks to Andrews Post #428, Cmdr. Dwayne Eden, for hosting the event. March brought our National Commander Bill Oxford to visiting Post #132 Manilla, Cmdr. James Rasmussen, and then he went on to Breda Post #607, Cmdr. Kevin Stork. During this month vaccinations became available against the COVID virus. Slowly people were returning to work. We are to keep in mind our brothers and sisters suffering from PTSD, mental hygiene and suicide awareness is most definitely a priority.

On the rough side of the coin, we have seen one

post close in Lakota, Kossuth County. One post going into revitalization, Manning Post # 22. We dropped down to second place in membership during the last quarter, behind the First District by a meager half a point. However, with the "new and improved" system from National Headquarters (which has failed) we haven't a clue where we stand.

My favorite part of the article is to report the Atta Boy/Girl/Post accolades.

POST HONOR RIBBON: Awarded to any Post that reaches 100% of their membership goal by December 31st. These AWARDS were made at the Spring Conference.

POST #132 Manilla 105.78%, POST #625 Klemme 100%, and POST #694 Arcadia 102.48%.

ROAD RUNNER PLAQUE: Awarded to any Post that reached a membership goal of 105% or better, also by Dec. 31st.

POST #132 Manilla 111.43% and POST #229 Corwith 108.57%.

Congratulations goes out to our newly elected District Commander Ken Fields. Ken will be assuming office on Sunday afternoon July 11th, at our State held Convention. Nominated to the ad hoc committee on the Constitution and By-laws is our own Gina Lile. I received a letter from our National Commander James W, (Bill) Oxford appointing me as a member of the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Council. I serve at the pleasure of the National Executive Committee.

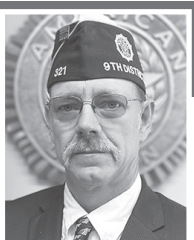
As I leave this position of District Commander, I must say it has been an honor and a pleasure to have served "SECTION 8" these past two years. Although

Coronavirus riddled the first year, we got some of our programs in. We did better the second year with most of the Legion programs completed, membership awards, National Commanders visitation, and our by-laws changed to reflect the more advanced technology to conduct meetings, without having to leave home as it were.

The "normal" course of business has been restored for now. I must give credit where credit is due to my Membership Director Ed Rohner. Much was accomplished through his efforts on us getting # 1 in the Department for membership goals; and would have kept going if not for things beyond his control. To all my officers' and committee heads for the thankless work you did to keep us in the loop with all the department expected of us. I Thank you. President Dee Schrod, (Aux) my sincerest and heartfelt thanks to you lady! I may not have pulled off half the stuff I wanted without you. I would like to thank our support staff in Des Moines: Ann, Teresa, John, Ryan and yes Marcia the retiree too and the rest for all you do, for us out in the field. My last Thank you here goes out to our Department Commander James Kessler, my mentor, one who guided me through some difficult times, I appreciated all you did for me and I am proud to call you friend. Thank you.

"May the road rise to meet you. May the wind be at your back. May the sunshine warm upon your face. May the rains fall upon your fields. And until we meet again, May God hold you in the hollow of His hand."

For God and Country,  
Tom Ryan



### 9th District Commander David Honse

As the winter snows melt into the warm spring days and the bright colored tulips show, spring conferences are done, a new year for The American Legion is fast approaching. As this new fiscal year grows nearer I am steadily asked how we are going to reach our membership numbers. During this past year I made it clear that I would not be the type of commander that would open each discussion by harping on our membership numbers. I think that I have held up my end of the bargain. What puzzles me is why we aren't at

100% or greater of our goal. Most of you who will read this article have been member of this organization for many years and for some many decades. We all know that every year we will need to pay our dues. We all are here because we believe in what The American Legion stands for and the programs that we have. My question is this: If we believe in those things and support the programs, why is it so hard to pay for your membership? I understand that there are individuals in our ranks that have certain financial hardships and that dues may be difficult for them. Help them out we are all brothers and sisters in this family. Personally the Rock Valley Sons Squadron sponsors four memberships each year for those Legion members that may be facing difficulties in renewing their membership. As for everyone else here is something

to think about. The utilities that come into your home were not forced upon you, you signed up for them and pay the "dues" for them every month. Look at you membership in the country's best and largest veterans service organization the same way. Pay your due like you pay your electric bill and we will be 100% by August. In closing for those who didn't attend the 9th District Spring, I was re-elected as Commander. I look forward to continuing the progress we have made this past year in turning the ship towards being more technologically based as the future will continue to demand that. May you all stay well and.....pay your electric bill.

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY  
David H Honse

## CALL FOR THE ONE-HUNDREDTH ONE ANNUAL CONVENTION THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF IOWA

The One-Hundred and First Annual Convention of The American Legion, Department of Iowa, will be held in Des Moines, Iowa, July 9, 10, & 11 2021. The Convention will be called to order at 4:00 p.m., Friday, July 9, in Ballroom Central and South of the Holiday Inn Airport Conference Center in Des Moines, Iowa.

### PURPOSE

The Convention is called for the purpose of:

1. Electing Department Officers for the ensuing year;
2. Ratification of Constitution and By Laws;
3. Selecting the place of holding the One Hundred and Second Annual Department Convention;
4. Selecting delegates and alternates to the One-Hundredth and First Annual National Convention; and
5. For the transaction of such other business as may be brought before the Convention.

### REPRESENTATION

Representation will be by Post. Each Post is entitled to two delegates and two alternates, provided it has at least 15 paid up members by June 9, 2021. Each Post is also entitled to one delegate and one alternate for each additional 50 paid up members or a major fraction thereof, whose dues have been paid on or before June 9, 2021.

The vote of each Post will be equal to the total number of delegates to which it is entitled.

All Past Department Commanders of the Iowa Department of The American Legion, who are members in good standing in any Post in the Department, present and in attendance at the Department Convention, shall be entitled to all the privileges of a delegate to said convention, and entitled to a vote therein.

### SELECTION OF DELEGATES

All Post delegates and alternates to the Convention will be selected at a regular meeting of the Post, or a special meeting called for that purpose.

Post Adjutants should give notice in writing to each member of the Post of the date, time, purpose, and place of such meeting, and the number of delegates to which it is entitled in the Convention.

Alternates have power to vote only in the absence of delegates, but have all other privileges of delegates.

Delegates should be chosen with care as they have the voting power of the Post on all questions brought before the Convention.

### EXPENSES OF DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES

Expenses of delegates and alternates who attend as Post representatives must be paid by their Post or by themselves, as no authority exists for the Department to pay the expenses of any delegate to the Convention.

Each delegation may have as its guests such members of The American Legion and their families as it sees fit to invite to accompany it. Insofar as space will permit, they will be admitted to the Convention Hall.

Press representatives accompanying delegations will be accorded every facility for their work at the Convention. They should report to

the Department Headquarters office upon arrival.

### DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS

Department Headquarters will be in Room 298 of the Airport Holiday Inn, Des Moines, Iowa. Regular and routine correspondence should be sent as usual to the Department Headquarters, 720 Lyon St., Des Moines, Iowa 50309.

### REGISTRATION AND HOUSING

Delegates, alternates and guests attending the Convention must register. A \$10.00 registration fee will be collected from all delegates, alternates and guests at registration.

Delegates, alternates and guests attending the Convention should address all inquiries relative to hotel reservations directly with the designated convention hotel(s).

### CREDENTIALS FOR DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES

Credentials for delegates and alternates based upon the number to which each Post is entitled will be given at registration. All delegates, alternates and guests will be required to wear their badge in order to gain admittance into the Convention Hall.

### OFFICIALS

Present Department and Post Officers, members of the Department Executive Committee, except Past Department Commanders, Officers of District and County organizations, unless selected as delegates and alternates to the Convention by their Post, have no privileges in the Convention except as guests of their respective delegations.

It is suggested that these officials be made members of the official Post delegation, as their experience will be exceedingly valuable to the delegation.

### RESOLUTIONS

Any Post or accredited delegate to the Convention may submit resolutions embodying constructive suggestions for the welfare of The American Legion. They should be in duplicate, typewritten, and shall be turned into the Department Adjutant on or before June 24, 2021, in order that he may refer them to the Resolutions Assignment Committee. A Resolution form with instructions is enclosed. More can be obtained by contacting the Department Adjutant.

### CONVENTION COMMITTEES

Friday, July 9, 2021, 1:00 p.m.

Special rooms will be provided for these committees. Time and place of future meetings of the Convention Committees will be set at the first meetings.

### DISTRICT CAUCUSES

Saturday, July 10, 2021, 2:00 p.m.

District caucuses will be held at 2:00 p.m. Special rooms will be provided. The Districts will conduct such business as may properly come before such caucuses.

**JOHN A. DERNER**  
Department Adjutant

**JAMES B. KESSLER**  
Department Commander



# AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

## DEPARTMENT OF IOWA

### *Auxiliary Communique*

SERVING VETERANS, THEIR FAMILIES AND THEIR COMMUNITIES



PAGE 7

## A Final Word From Dept. President



Well, this is my last article as your Department President. Wow what a ride the last 2 years have been! One for the history books for sure. I have had some of the most wonderful memorable moments the last 2 years. It has been an honor to serve as your Centennial President. Who would have thought that 2 years ago we would have gone through a great fall with the Home Coming of our National President Nicole, to a Pandemic in March that would shut this nation down and finally coming out the other side trying to get back to 'normal'. We have learned to adapt and change how we have always done something because we had to. And we have proven that change can work! Change can be good and will keep you moving forward. I hope you have embraced some of the changes the last couple of years and continue to try new things and ideas.

I want to thank everyone for their kind words, thoughts, and hospitality towards me. I have really enjoyed getting to know you all better and learning more about your units. It has been fun traveling around the state and meeting you. You have done some great work for our Veteran, their families, your communities and our Children and Youth. You have made a difference in so many lives. I appreciate all the volunteer hours you have put in. It has made a difference in many lives. All the masks that were made this last year. I have seen so many of you doing all you can

to help protect others by using your talent for sewing. Some even learned to sew so they could help. Your generosity is amazing.

Finally, I want to thank the Past Department Presidents for all your guidance and advice. It has meant the world to me. These ladies are a wealth of knowledge and we need to learn from them and value their knowledge. And to National President Nicole, it has been an honor to serve with you these past 2 years. No one could do better representing the American Legion Organization on the National Level like you have. You have represented with Grace, Kindness, Compassion and Strength. I have learned so much from you.

I will always hold my American Legion Auxiliary Family close to my heart. I look forward to seeing what is next on my journey. I hope you all will continue to thrive and do great things. Working together we can do amazing things.

Stay Safe, Stay Strong and God Bless my American Legion Family

Kelly Elliott  
Department President



## Doris Jackson: President Elect

Doris Jackson is a thirty three year member of the Fred N. Davis, Unit 96, Lorimor, American Legion Auxiliary. She is eligible through her father, who fought in WWII in the Pacific Theater. Doris served as Unit President, Historian, and Junior Activities, County President for 2 years and Secretary/Treasurer from 2007 – 2010. She served as District Vice-President, Treasurer (4 years), Chaplain, Girls State, Junior Activities, Broadcaster, AEF, Membership, and numerous years on the Budget and Finance Committee and Governing Documents Committee. Doris has served the Department as Junior Activities 2 years, Membership, VA&R Service to Veterans, VA&R, Junior Camp Program Director, Junior Camp Co-Director and Junior Camp Director, Chaplain, Historian and Vice President. She also served on Strategic Planning 1 year, Centennial Committee 1 year, and 2020 Leadership Development Committee 4 years. She volunteers for the annual Des Moines Stand Down in September and loves to make Quilts of Valor. Doris is currently Lorimor Unit 96 President, serves on the 5th District Budget and Finance Committee, Department Vice President and the 35th ALA Junior Camp Anniversary Reception Chairman.

Doris is married to Bobby Jackson and they have three children, Melissa, Robert and Robert (BJ). They are blessed with 12 grandchildren and 2 greatgrandchildren. Bobby is active in the SAL currently serving as Squadron Adjutant and Detachment VA&R Chairman. He has served as SAL Detachment NEC and Alt. NEC. They both belong to the Legion Riders. Robert is a retired Navy Chief after twenty years of service and BJ served with the Army National Guard 186th MP. Doris is busy in her community serving as Past President and Secretary/treasurer for the Lorimor Lions Club and currently serving as 9SW Veterans Chairman. She attends the Church of God in Lorimor. For the past 10 years, she has cared for a couple in Indianola. John, a Korean war veteran, needed dialysis and she drove him to Des Moines three days a week and then would help his wife at home. John went home to the Lord in 2015 but she has continued to help his wife.

Doris is committed to serving our veterans, military and their families through the American Legion Auxiliary and their programs. "Have you Thanked a Veteran Today"

## Mark Your Calendar

Please plan to join us for the 2021-2022 ALA Department Programs Workshop, July 31st at the Baldwin-Paterson Post #274 at 10:00 a.m. You will meet our new Department officers and Chairmen for the year. They will be sharing new information on our programs and telling us what contests are available. Our Membership team will be telling you about our new goals for the year. Everyone is welcome to attend! A light lunch will be served. More information may be found on our website, iowaala.org within the next month.

[www.iowaala.org](http://www.iowaala.org)



**Nicole Clapp ALA NP**

I am very honored, humbled, and flattered to be serving as your American Legion Auxiliary National President during the special centennial year on the national stage. So Iowa American Legion Family, let us continue "Celebrating A Century of

Service" all the way to Phoenix! Obviously, my one-year term became two and definitely was not what we had expected thanks for the coronavirus, but still a once in a lifetime opportunity, I will always cherish.

Thanks to all of you being right by my side throughout this entire experience wearing your red Standing Tall with Nicole shirts. Cornelius T. Sweetcorn has loved attending events and being my copilot when I got to drive. But never fear, Cornelius JR. has been my main traveling companion, who did not need to have a covid test, and has made so many people smile across America! I have loved having a little part of Iowa with me no matter where in the world I have been.

My national president official visit to Iowa is our Department Convention. I am very excited to see so many familiar faces! I look forward to celebrating with all of you at the ALA 100th Anniversary Gala. So, mark your calendars for July 8-11th!

I hope if you are traveling to Phoenix, you will plan to attend the Monday morning opening ceremonies of our 100th Anniversary ALA National Convention. On Wednesday, there will be video report presentation of my extended term as your National President. Next, the time to pass the torch to the next National President will occur, where I will be presented my national colors with mom and dad at my side and receive Sherry McLaughlin's Past President Pin. I hope the Iowa delegation will want to be present for this very special moment! Then, we "Celebrate a Century of Service" one last time at the States Dinner banquet. If you are unable to attend National Convention you will be able to live stream the meetings online at the ALAforveterans.org website.

THANK YOU for your ongoing support to make this Iowa farmgirl's dream come true!

Love, President Nikki

## Greetings from your Department of Iowa Nominating Committee!

We are looking forward to seeing all of you at Department Convention in July. We also wanted to remind you that we are always looking for Auxiliary members that are willing to serve in a Department office. If you have questions about any of the duties of these offices the information can be found in the Blue Book. If you still have questions, there

are many past officers that would be more than willing to talk to you and answer any questions you may have about each office. If you would be interested in running for Chaplain, Historian, or Vice President, please let one of the committee members know the year in which you would like to do so!

Kim Dixon, Chair kjdixon@mahaska.org

Mary Bryan, mvb9855@aol.com

Michelle Long, ccvettesml@macomb.com

## Dept Auxiliary Vice President Nomination

I have been a member of Unit 15 West Union for over 30 years. I have served all Unit offices and most Chairmanships. I have served 4th District as Secretary, Treasurer, VP and President as well as on the Finance Committee. At the Department level I have served as Chairman of the Americanism and Music Committee, Education and Merit Award Committee, Finance Committee for 3 years, one as Chairman, Membership Committee and Membership Chairman and is completing her second year as Chairman of Strategic Planning/Forward Focus Committee and Distinguished Guest committee and Nicole Clapp for National President Committee for 4 years.

I am eligible thru the service of her husband Dennis, a Vietnam Veteran and Past Department Commander and Iowa's Alternate National Executive Committee person. We have two children – Tony of West Union, the SAL Squadron Commander and daughter Stephanie and Mitch and daughters Adeline and Charlotte of Grimes – they are ALA Sr, and Jr. Members and Mitch is a member of the SAL. We truly have an American Legion family.

I am active at Holy Name Catholic church, on the Parish committee, Catholic daughters and has been a CCD teacher for 4th and 7th Grades for many years. I took early retirement last year after 40 years in Healthcare Management.

I believe in helping our Veterans and their families and practices what I preaches.

Having been endorsed by her Unit, Fayette County and 4th District, I am proud to ask for your help and support for the office of Iowa American Legion Auxiliary Department Vice President 2021-2022.



## Chaplain for 2021-2022

### Mary Jo McLaughlin

I feel very honored and humbled to have been asked by Doris Jackson to be Chaplain for her year as Department President. I have been a member of William F. Ball Unit 48 in Nevada since 2008. I am qualified to be a member of the Auxiliary under my husband, Timothy, who has served his country for 26 years in the United States Army. We have 4 children and 9 Grandchildren.

I have held almost all offices in our Unit as well as in the County and the District and have been chairmen of several District Committees. On the Department level I have also been AEF Chairman and Junior Activities Chairman.

I graduated from the College of St. Benedict in Minnesota with a degree in Elementary Education and have been a Substitute teacher in several school districts as well as a preschool teacher in Germany. I am a member of St. Patrick's Church in Nevada and have been a past director of their Religious Program for three years.

I look forward to leading our Auxiliary members in prayer and ask each of our members to pray from your hearts each day for our veterans, leaders, and peace and harmony in our world.

## AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

Department of Iowa - 720 Lyon Street, Des Moines, IA 50309

**CALL TO THE 100th ANNUAL DEPARTMENT CONVENTION**

The 100th Annual Department Convention of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Iowa will be held Friday, Saturday and Sunday, July 9-11, 2021. All Auxiliary Pre-Convention Meetings, General Sessions and Joint Meetings with The American Legion Family will be held at the Airport Holiday Inn, 6111 Fleur Dr., Des Moines IA.

**PURPOSE:**

The convention is called for the purpose of electing officers for the ensuing year, amending the Department Constitution, Bylaws, and Standing Rules, receiving reports from Department Officers and Committees, electing delegates and alternates to attend National Convention, receiving reports from members of National Committees, and the transaction of such other business as may be brought before it.

**REGISTRATION:**

Registration will be Friday, July 9th, from Noon to 3:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and Saturday, July 10th, from 8:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. Pre-Registration is requested online or by mail (covid protection) and the fee is **\$10.00** for all attendees. There is no registration fee for Junior Auxiliary members, but they **MUST** check in at registration table. **Everyone is required to register for the Convention. You must check in at the Auxiliary Registration Table at the Convention.**

**REPRESENTATION:**

Refer to page 5 of the 2020-2021 Department Blue Book, Article VIII of the Department Constitution, Sections 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6:

Section 2. Each Unit shall be entitled to elect one (1) delegate and one (1) alternate, and one (1) additional delegate and one (1) additional alternate for each fifty (50) members or major fraction thereof, provided their current dues have been received by the Department Executive Director by MAY 15th of the current year. No alternate shall be entitled to a vote unless seated as a delegate.

Section 3. Members of the Department Executive Committee, all Past Department Presidents, District Presidents-elect, and incoming County Presidents, all of whom are in good standing in their local Units, shall be delegates at large to the Department Convention.

Section 4. Election of officers shall be held according to the Department Standing Rules. No member shall have more than one (1) vote.

Section 5: The Legislative Body of this Department shall be the delegates to the Department Convention to be held each year not less than two (2) weeks prior to the National Convention.

Section 6. A quorum of the Department Convention shall consist of fifty percent (50%) of the duly registered delegates.

**DELEGATE AND ALTERNATE CREDENTIALS:**

A form to list Delegates and Alternates is included in the packet (sent to the Unit President of each Unit by May 31, 2021). This form, listing the Delegates and Alternates, **must be** in the Department Office by no later than **July 1, 2021**. If you are not sending any Delegates or Alternates, please send the form in and indicate there will not be any Delegates or Alternates from your Unit.

Delegate/Alternate ribbons will be issued at the Department Convention Registration table.

**A member's name must be on the list provided by her Unit to be a Unit Delegate or Alternate.**

If a member of your Unit fits into one of the following categories, please list name and title on the Delegate/Alternate form. They will receive their Delegate ribbon at Department Convention. We need this information for delegate strength.

**2019-2021 Department Executive Committee Member,**  
**2019-2021 Department Officers,**  
**2019-2021 District Presidents,**  
**2019-2021 Parliamentarian**  
**District President-Elect for 2021-2022**  
**County President-Elect for 2021-2022**

**NOMINATIONS, CAUCUSES AND ELECTIONS:**

Nominations for Department Offices will be on Friday afternoon, July 09, 2021. If there is only one nominee for an office, voting shall be by acclamation at the Friday afternoon session. If there is more than one nominee for an office, the voting shall be by ballot at the District Caucuses. Caucuses are scheduled for Saturday, July 10th, 2021.

**NATIONAL GUEST:** National President Nicole Clapp will be in attendance at the convention.

**TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:** Changes in the convention schedule will be updated in the convention program or announced from the podium. A tentative schedule will be on our web site – [www.iowaala.org](http://www.iowaala.org) - no later than July 1, 2021.

**QUESTIONS:** Call the Department Office at 515-282-7987, or e-mail Crystal Wright, Executive Director at [alasectreas@ialegon.org](mailto:alasectreas@ialegon.org).

See you at Convention.

**Chaplain's Corner**

Psalm 103:20 Bless the LORD, ye his angels, that excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearkening unto the voice of his word.

God's angels are mighty and obedient to His Word. They listen for the faintest disclosure of His will.

As I am writing my last article, I am receiving many American Legion Auxiliary's Unit Chaplain year end reports. Each one has touched my heart. I am finding that no matter how small your unit is in members or how large your unit is in members – each unit is making a difference in a Veteran's life, their families, and your communities. Never doubt the impact you have in someone's life. You have a unique contribution to make, and your own special way of being an angel and doing God's work here on earth. When God looks down on to earth, He is pleased with the work you are doing and the work you will continue to do as an Auxiliary member.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

We should continually converse with God. God

loves us and wants to hear from us. He is always available. He is always listening. Prayer is an act of worship because by praying to Him, we are showing Him how much we adore Him.

We, as Americans, should never take for granted the sacrifices our veterans and military have endured making this magnificent country we live in – free. When you pray without ceasing, remember to pray for our veterans, military, and their families. They need our prayers.

I want to thank you for supporting me these last two years as your Department Chaplain. Your prayers, cards, and kind words have made my heart full.

You still have time to send me your favorite prayer or Bible verse that helps sustain you through your daily lives? I will enclose it in my Book of Prayers and Inspirations for President Kelly. My email address: [m\\_mooberry@yahoo.com](mailto:m_mooberry@yahoo.com) or home address: 1200 Court St. Charles City, IA. 50616

"Prayer should be a habitual attitude, not an occasional act."

Harry Emerson Fosdick  
 Department Chaplain  
 Mary Mooberry

**Historian**

Hello Iowa American Legion Auxiliary Members:  
 I hope many of you have had your covid shots or are scheduled to receive them soon.

Don't forget that I have extended my contest till the end of June 2021. I am looking for the oldest unit in Iowa. I would like to receive summaries of when your unit was chartered and a list of the chartered members along with not more than 2 pages of your unit's events throughout the years.

Please continue to send me photos or newspaper clippings showing events that your unit has participated in from 2019 through the end of National Convention of this year for Dept. President Kelly's history book and don't forget to include the W's!

Stay safe!

Thank you  
 Dept. Historian, LaDonna Runner  
 2661 330th St., Laurel, Iowa 50141  
[bwljrun@heartofiowa.net](mailto:bwljrun@heartofiowa.net)



100th ANNUAL DEPARTMENT AUXILIARY CONVENTION			
THURSDAY – JULY 8, 2021			
11:00	Finance Committee Meeting	Room Iowa C	
2:00	Governing Documents Meeting	Room Iowa C	
7:00	Past Department President's Dinner	Room Iowa DE	
FRIDAY – JULY 9, 2021			
Registration – Ballroom Hallway 12:00 - 3:00 p.m. and 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. \$10.00 ALL Attendees, except Juniors			
8:00	Planning Meeting	Room 397	
9:00	Merit Awards	Room 175	
9:30	Department Executive Committee Meeting	Room 397	
11:30	Installation Practice	Room BRN	
1:30	Pages' Practice	Room BRN	
2:30	Processional Line-up	Room BRN	
2:45	Call to Order Auxiliary General Session	Room BRN	
Recess Auxiliary General Session until Saturday			
7:00	Joint Session		
SATURDAY, JULY 10, 2021			
Registration – Ballroom Hallway 8:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. \$10.00 ALL Attendees, except Juniors			
8:30	Reconvene Auxiliary General Session	Room BRN	
1:00	Auxiliary District Caucuses and Election		
1:45	Election Polls are open from 1:15-1:45 p.m.		
	First District	Room 397	
	Second District	Room WView C	
	Third District	Room 396	
	Fourth District	Room 394	
	Fifth District	Room 175	
	Sixth District	Room 292	
	Seventh District	Room 292	
	Eighth District	Room WView S	
	Ninth District	Room WView N	
2:00	Reconvene Auxiliary General Session		
Recess Auxiliary General Session until Sunday			
4:00	Color Guard Contest		
6:00	Centennial Gala Event	Room Iowa A	
SUNDAY, JULY 11, 2021			
9:00	ALA Photos	Room Iowa DE	
9:30	Installation	Department Officers and District Presidents	
Retirement of POW/MIA Flag, Adjourn, Retirement of Colors and Close of Convention			
Following Installation.....Post-DEC.....11:30.....Iowa DE.....			

A detailed program and schedule will be available online at [www.iowaala.org](http://www.iowaala.org)

American Legion  
Auxiliary Department  
of Iowa Endorsement  
for Department  
Historian 2021 – 2022

Kathy Wilkerson has been endorsed by her Unit and 1st District for Department Historian. Kathy is a paid up for life member of Edward H Bitzer, Muscatine Unit 27 and is eligible through the service of her father, Russel E Cline. Russel served in the United States Marine Corps in Korea and was a purple-heart recipient. Her father was a 15-year member of the American Legion, Muscatine Post 27.

Kathy has served as Unit #27 Vice-President, Muscatine County Secretary-Treasurer, Muscatine County Chaplain, 1st District Chaplain, Historian, Vice-President and President. She has served as chairman for 1st District Governing Documents, Finance and Chairman of the Pages. She has served on these Department Committees or Chairmanships: Junior Camp Assistant Director (2 years), Junior Camp Director (3 years), VA&R Service to Veterans and VA&R. Kathy was the 2009-2010 1st District and Department of Iowa Unit Member of the Year.

Kathy has one daughter, Lisa

who is a member of the American Legion Auxiliary, Muscatine Unit 27. Her sister Sue Sandoval is also a member of the American Legion Auxiliary, Muscatine Unit 27. Her sister Annie Blanchard was also a member of Muscatine Unit 27 and is who signed Kathy up as an Auxiliary member.

Kathy is active in her community currently serving on the Tri-Rivers Conservation Foundation Board of Directors. Past board of director for Shining Trail Council of Girl Scouts, 1995-1997. Past Wapello PTA president. She routinely volunteers for Louisa County Conservation belaying for the High Ropes Challenge Course and their annual Halloween Hike. She is a member of the Friends of Port Louisa National Wildlife Refuge. She has been a member of the Quilts of Valor organization since 2015.

Kathy is employed with Bayer at Muscatine as a Process Control Specialist. She has been at the Muscatine site for 43 years beginning in 1977 with Monsanto Company.

Kathy is committed to serving our veterans, military and their families through the American Legion Auxiliary. She would like your support for the office of Department Historian 2021-2022.

For God and Country

Department Finance

Challenges, and overcoming those challenges have been the focus of the Department of Iowa Finance committee. While some donations have been low, others have been very generous. The Department of Iowa has received funds from generous donors upon their death.

We have also received funds from the Payroll Protection Program that has helped us to allow our employees to feel safe in their work environment. The office staff has worked diligently to bring positivity and to look for ways to keep costs low.

Centennial

Time to celebrate! The entire Legion Family is invited to an evening of Centennial Gala Celebration, at our Annual Convention, July 10th (Saturday). We will start the evening at 6 PM with a sit-down meal followed by patriotic music by the Iowa Veterans Band, an entertaining program, and for your listening or dancing pleasure, music by Rick and Friends. Let's celebrate with the Legion Family in your favorite period outfit from 1919-2019 (flapper, swing, hippie, disco, etc.). Gala meal tickets are specially reduced to \$30, while entertainment only tickets are \$10 each or a special price for 3 people at \$20. These tickets may be ordered on the [www.iowaala.org](http://www.iowaala.org).

As the Department of Iowa finance committee, it is our goal to achieve a balanced budget. While at times it may be challenging, we strive to be sure that the funds are utilized the best way possible.

A huge thank you to the members, units, counties and districts that have made sure their obligations are paid.

As always, should you have any questions regarding the Department of Iowa finances you may contact any of us on the committee or the Department Executive Director.

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

[www.iowaala.org](http://www.iowaala.org) site. Don't miss this special event!

Iowa's Opal Glynn Hanes was elected National President 1965-1966. "The challenge of the past, the achievements of the present and the hopes of the future are ours to cherish, to accomplish and to further. To everything there is a season – and a time to every purpose. We know our purpose and we accept our challenge – the time is now".

Diana Shadduck,  
Centennial  
Chairman



## 35th American Legion Auxiliary Junior Camp Anniversary Reception

Our American Legion Auxiliary 35th Junior Camp Anniversary Reception will be held August 20, 2021, 1:00-3:00 p.m. at the Newton Christian Conference Center. This will offer the opportunity to see the cabins, lodge and grounds. The Newton Christian Conference Center is an excellent campground with so much to offer.

Attention past and present campers: Anyone wanting to share their pictures of camp. Put on a poster board or in a photo album and bring to reception. Make sure and include names, year and location. Anyone with memorabilia from their camp days and want to display, please bring. We also need t-shirts for each year. Please let me know if you have camp t-shirts to display. Thank you! And see you at Camp!!!

Please call or email for more information:  
Doris Jackson  
mrsj@grm.net  
515-468-1274



**Collette Wiebbeke and Veronica Pavlicek of Hora Machacek Unit #453 of Clutier, Iowa made patriotic quilts which were given to each of the members of the Hora Machacek Post #453. They made over 44 quilts.**



## Purses, Purses, Purses



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

If you would like to donate a purse, here is all you need to do: one nice looking purse (not worn, frayed or torn), tag could say "adding spice to your life" so purse has Cajun Chex mix and spicy nuts. The tag could say "Tiny bubbles" and be a bottle of wine and two glasses. It could say "Fifteen two and a run of four for six" so purse has a cribbage board, deck of cards, note pad and pen.

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



## COMMUNITY SERVICE REPORT STATE OF IOWA

Iowa Auxiliary members have been busy the past 12 months. Making thousands of masks for schools, hospitals, veterans and anyone in need. Some of the masks were sent to Alabama to a veteran and his family, to an Iowan Auxiliary member to be distributed to needy, and finally to the country of Panama.

They participated in helping with Meals on Wheels, donated food, money to their local food pantry and one Unit held a meal every third Thursday of the month from September to May. Every meal was offered to deliver or curbside pick-up to Veterans, Auxiliary members and Sons of the American Legion if they needed it.

Many sewing projects have been done during these quarantined times. Dresses made and sent to Africa and Haiti, cancer pillows, hospital gowns, scarfs for Veterans, Quilts of Valor and quilts given to law enforcement. One Unit was asked by the school to come and teach sewing skills to their students, kindergarten through high school.

Flag etiquette, presentations to school age children, flag folding and flag disposal was some of the many programs carried out. Auxiliary members placed flags at the cemeteries for Memorial Day. During a parade flags were handed out.

Poppies were distributed to the public though out the state. One Unit had a clever idea, they wrapped a poppy around a Tootsie Roll Popp and presented them to younger school age children.

Memorial Day programs and Veteran's Day events were held. Wreaths were made and placed on the Veteran's graves for one town.

One Unit bought flowers, planted and cared for during the summer at their towns Veteran's memorial.

May baskets, gift cards and Christmas gifts were given out to Veterans in care facilities. Monetary donations were given to our Veteran's care facilities. Needed items presented to the VA hospitals also.

Angel Tree projects, Kids shopping day held for local children to come purchase Christmas presents for their family at no cost to the kids. Popcorn balls were made for Santa's sacks. Merit awards given to graduating seniors throughout the state have been presented.

The best idea sent to this Chairperson is one Unit made "Birthday Kits". These were available to any needy family. It contained a tablecloth, paper plates, napkins, candles, cake mix and a can of frosting in a foil pan with a lid.

Connie K. Wagner  
Iowa Chairperson for  
Community Service.  
2019-2021



## 75 Year Member Honored

Bob Traeger was honored as a 75-year member of American Legion Post #15 in West Union. His sons were on hand to witness this along with members of Post #15 and ALA Unit #15 members. Bob was a belly gunner on a bomber in WWII. Pictured are 4th District Commander Dan Boberg, ANEC Dennis Soppe, Post #15 Commander Greg Stahl and the honoree Bob Traeger. We wish him the best of health.

## Membership Memo

It's June! Where has the time gone? I've already been here 1 full year, and I still don't feel I have everything together. But I will finally get to experience my first Department Convention in July!

Let's start with a moment to address what's on the mind of many: MyLegion. It does have some currently known issues, a list of which are available in the Resources section on MyLegion, but they are working every day to improve it. If you can get on now and start looking around, you'll be in a better position to start the 2022 membership year. Check out the Resources section for more about how to use the new site. If you have issues, you can reach out to the MyLegion Team at National.

Otherwise, if you mail in membership, you need to get that in now. Getting it in

now means we can get it in the system before June 30th and the rollover to 2022. Continue to send in updates to records, even if the card printing happened in April, just so we can make sure things are updated in our system.

Your District Commanders will have your 2022 Legion membership cards and rosters, so connect with them about getting those. SAL will be mailed, but make sure you have your Squadron Officers Report in to receive the new cards.

As a side note, I'd also like to say hi to my grandparents, who I've heard read my little article. Hope to see you again soon!

Everyone, let's finish the 2021 membership year strong, and get ready for a great 2022!

Ann Haack  
Membership Clerk



## Jim Peterson Candidate for Alternate National Executive Committeeman

To the American Legion Family of Iowa, I am Jim Peterson, candidate for the office of Alternate National Executive Committeeman, for the period of 2021-2023. I am a Past Department of Iowa Commander, 2015-2016 and a 48-year member of The American Legion, Peterson Post #431 of Gowrie, Iowa. I have held many positions in The American Legion and have enjoyed them all. I currently am the Chairman of the Iowa American Legion Marketing Committee and on the National level I am a member of the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission. The American Legion is my passion and I would like to have your support and vote for this high office in The American Legion. If elected, I will work to the best of my ability to represent the Legionnaires of Iowa on the State and National level.

## 2021 Educator of the Year

Ron Broxson of Dyersville was selected as the 2021 American Legion of Iowa Educator of the Year. Mr. Broxson was nominated by Dyersville American Legion Post #137. Mr. Broxson has been an educator focusing on English to 7th-12th graders at Beckman Catholic High School in Dyersville. As an educator for the past 7 years, Mr. Broxson has promoted Americanism by starting a Constitutional Essay Contest which focuses on helping students understand the Constitution and delving into the basic cornerstones of our country, The Bill of Rights. Mr. Broxson is also an active member of multiple Catholic church parishes focusing on faith formation with students, a track & field and basketball coach. Mr. Broxson will be honored during Department Convention this July in Des Moines. Nominees who were not selected are welcome to be submitted again next year.



## NEC Candidate

Hello, my name is Dennis Soppe. I am married to Jayne, and we have two children, Anthony and Stephanie, and one granddaughter Addy, who is the light of my life. I have been an Alternate National Executive Committeeman for two years and I would like to be your NEC for 2021-2023. I have held numerous

offices in the American Legion including Department Commander from 2011-2012. I have also served on many commissions and committees, both at the Department and National level. I am presently the Department Chairman for Strategic Planning and one of the board directors for The American Legion of Iowa Foundation. I currently serve on the National Internal Affairs Commission. If elected I promise to continue to do my best to serve the Legionnaires and Legion Family of Iowa. Your support would be greatly appreciated – Thank you.

Dennis Soppe, ANEC and NEC Candidate

# Post Everlasting

*We apologize for the inconvenience. Due to the new membership system implemented by The American Legion National Headquarters, departments are unable to pull a report for the members who have moved on to Post Everlasting. Unfortunately, we will not be able to post them in the next issue of The Iowa Legionnaire due to size constraints.*

**Thank you.**

– The Department of Iowa Staff

## Department Color Guard Competition

The Department Color Guard Contest will be held on Saturday, July 10, 2021 at the Department Convention. Rules and entry forms are available on the Department website or by request from Department at 800-365-8387. 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.



## The American Legion of Iowa Foundation Iowa Legionnaire Summer 2021

The 2021 annual meeting of The American Legion of Iowa Foundation was held as this issue of the Iowa Legionnaire was entering the editing process. As has always been the case, our Board of Directors were tasked with making decisions on applications that far exceeded the funds available. Thanks to the good work of our financial advisors at Regions Bank, we had \$108,000 available for distribution this year, the largest amount ever.

While we thank the professionals at Regions Bank, it is really the generosity of the Legion family and their supporters in Iowa that have made this possible. We would have no money to invest or grants to award if it weren't for you. COVID-19 put a lot of uncertainty in everyone's lives last year resulting in a dip in donations. That

uncertainty is giving way to generosity as we have already received more in donations so far in 2021 than in all of 2020.

Over the last decade, the goal of the Foundation has been a principal value of \$2,000,000. In the last few years, that goal has been met and exceeded. Our quarterly report ending March 31, 2021 shows a total market value of nearly \$2,500,000. After consideration at the annual meeting, the Board has set a new goal of \$3,000,000. That will take some work but so did \$2M and we got that done.

The Directors each have two books of raffle tickets for sale. Prizes in this raffle are not the normal cash prizes but are Iowa Lottery scratch tickets. First prize \$600 in scratch ticket, 2nd prize is \$300 and third prize is \$150. There will be additional prizes. The drawing will be held at Department Convention this summer. Ticket price is \$10. The winner can, of course, choose a cash prize but why turn down the fun of scratch tickets.

Two of our Directors are also planning fun events that will benefit the Iowa Foundation. Larry Swann and his 1st District team have another golf outing planned for June 14. They will have 29 teams playing this year. Last year's outing resulted in a check to the Foundation for \$5,000. Larry also hosted a reception for the grant recipients in the 1st District. Great new ideas.

Bob Wenger, his 3rd District team and legion

Riders from all over the state have begun planning a "bug" run to benefit the Foundation. We will leave it to the reader to visualize what a "bug" run may be. It will also involve stops at the Freedom Rocks around the state. This event is still in the early planning stages so keep your eyes open for dates and locations.

The list of grant recipients will be published in a later issue of the Iowa Legionnaire. Read through that list and ask yourself, "Who in our area is doing the kind of work that the foundation supports?" Identify them and encourage that organization to apply next year.

The Foundation's portion of the Department website will be expanding. We want you to know more about our grant recipients and what they do, more than just their name and a one-line description. We want you to know more about the history of the Foundation. We want you to know more about our donors and why they are generous toward the Foundation. Those changes will be accomplished in the next few months.

Thank you to our donors and supporters. Thank you to those wonderful people that do the work here in Iowa that we support. Thank you to Headquarters staff, John, Teresa and Ann that maintain the records and do so much of the work that makes the Foundation possible.



## Candidate for Department Commander

Fellow Comrades,

For those of you I haven't met, I'm Bob Waugh of John Hyson Reneker Post #494 of Douds. I've been a Dept.

Vice-Commander for the past 3 years and asking for your support to be your Dept. Commander for 2021-2022. I am a Viet Nam veteran and served with the 20th Engr. Bn. for 13.5 months based out of Pleiku. Our Motto was "Build and Fight" with the Tasmanian Devil as our mascot. That will be mine if elected as your new commander.

I know many of you are tired of hearing leadership harp on "MEMBERSHIP". We must all realize and understand that it is the life blood of this great organization. We can't continue down the path we have taken and survive. So, with that, my goal is 100% plus. What good is a goal if we don't give it all we have and settle for less than 100%. I do appreciate the efforts I've seen by the post that have attained 100% or more this year. It proves it can be done and that membership is "EVERYONE'S" responsibility!

You know that the American flag is flown upside down in times of distress. Let's not falter into a time of distress that would possibly have us considering flying our American Legion flag upside down. Enough on that!!

I will use a phrase from our Preamble also, "To inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the Community, state and nation". If you don't know the meaning of inculcate, look it up and you may realize why you hear so much about membership. We should all know the Preamble and its meaning, and I've come to understanding it much better after reciting it at all American Legion meetings. For any members who hasn't taken American Legion Basic Training on line, I highly recommend it or use it as a training tool at some of your meetings. It will put a lot more meaning and perspective into what The American Legion is!

I also want to focus on our youth programs and get more posts involved in promoting them. They are our country's future, and it is our responsibility to help shape them. Enough said for now, I look forward to an exciting and rewarding year. So, let's finish this year strong and have a great start for building in 2021-2022.

For God and Country,  
Build and Fight  
Bob Waugh

## Celebrate Lou Gehrig Day

The American Legion will honor New York Yankees great Lou Gehrig through its American Legion Baseball program, in conjunction with Major League Baseball's creation of an annual tradition of observing Lou Gehrig Day on June 2.

American Legion Resolution No. 6, adopted by the American Legion's National Executive Committee on May 5, 2021, strongly encourages "every American Legion Baseball team to observe a moment of silence before their game(s) each year on June 2 in

memory of Major League Baseball's great Lou Gehrig and all veterans who suffer or have died from ALS." In 2008, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) established ALS as a presumptive military service-connected disease. This allows veterans with ALS to be eligible for service-connected benefits. For reasons as yet unknown, veterans are twice as likely to be diagnosed with ALS than the general population.

On June 2, please join us in a moment of silence in honor of Lou Gehrig and all the veterans whose careers and lives were cut short by ALS.

## National Legion College December 12-17, 2021

The National Legion College prepares young 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.

2021 Legion College class will convene December 12-17, 2021. The 2021 student application is posted and available at [legion.org/college](http://legion.org/college).

The Department of Iowa is currently seeking two candidates. Candidates must have military service after 1982 and have completed the American Legion Extension Institute. The Extension Institute is available online at [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org).

Applicants who were not selected for the 2020 class and would like to attend the 2021 class will be required to complete a 2021 application. Class of 2021 student applications are due no later than July 1, 2021 to Department Headquarters.

If you have any questions, please contact Adjutant Derner at 800-365-8387 or [john@ialegion.org](mailto:john@ialegion.org).

## Airborne Hazard Exposure Presumptive Conditions

VA presumes that certain disabilities were caused by military service. This is because of the unique circumstances of a specific Veteran's military service. If a presumed condition is diagnosed in a Veteran in a certain group, they can be awarded disability compensation. The Secretary of VA passed a new rule adding presumptive service connection for three new respiratory health conditions associated with exposure to fine, particulate, airborne matter for Veterans that served on active military, naval, or air service in the Southwest Asia theater of operations during the Persian Gulf War and where the conditions manifest within ten (10) years of separation.

The Southwest Asia theater of operations refers to Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the neutral zone between Iraq and Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, the Gulf of Aden, the Gulf of Oman, the Persian Gulf, the Arabian Sea, the Red Sea, and the airspace above these locations.

In addition, for purposes of this ruling, this includes a period of active military, naval, or air service on or after September 19, 2001, in Afghanistan and Uzbekistan.

The new conditions are asthma, rhinitis, and sinusitis. Veterans and survivors are encouraged to submit claims.

**Holiday Inn Des Moines Airport Conference Center**

6111 Fleur Dr.  
Des Moines, IA 50321  
(515) 287-2400  
Rate: \$96.00

**[www.ialegion.org/convention](http://www.ialegion.org/convention)**

Ask for The American Legion rate when making reservations.

**Headquarters Office – Room 298****Thursday, July 8, 2021**

5:00 p.m. Resolutions Assignment – Room 175

**Friday, July 9, 2021**

8:00 a.m. Credentials Committee – Room 292  
9:00 a.m. Rules Committee – Room 292  
9:00 a.m. Commission & Committee Chairmen Meeting – Iowa C  
10:00 a.m. Registration & Display Tables – Ballroom Foyer  
10:00 a.m. Department Commission Meetings:  
Convention Commission – Iowa B  
Americanism Commission – Iowa E  
Baseball Committee  
Boy Scout Committee  
Children & Youth Committee  
Community Service Committee  
JSSP Committee  
Oratorical Contest Committee  
VA & R Commission – Iowa C  
Health Administration Committee  
Veterans Benefits Committee  
Legislative Commission – Room 396  
National Affairs Commission – Room 398  
Internal Affairs Commission – Iowa D  
Leadership Committee  
Membership Committee  
S.A.L. Committee  
Strategic Planning Committee  
American Legion Riders Committee  
1:00 p.m. Convention Committee Meetings:  
Americanism – Iowa E  
Internal Affairs – Iowa D  
National Affairs – Room 398  
VA & R – Iowa C  
Finance, Constitution & By-Laws – Room 396  
2:00 p.m. Iowa American Legion Press Association – Room 292  
2:30 p.m. Liaison Committee – Iowa B  
4:00 p.m. General Session – Ballrooms Central & South  
Guests  
Report of Rules Committee  
Report of Credentials Committee  
Report of the NEC  
Report of Department Officers  
6:00 p.m. Recess  
6:00 p.m. Color Guard Contest Registration & Meeting – Iowa B  
7:00 p.m. Joint Session of American Legion, Auxiliary & SAL – Ballrooms North, Central & South  
Adjourn Joint Session  
9:00 p.m. Hospitality & Karaoke – Courtyard  
SAL Hospitality - Room 160

**Saturday, July 10, 2021**

7:00 a.m. Foundation Breakfast – Iowa C, D, & E  
8:00 a.m. Registration & Display Tables – Ballroom Foyer  
8:30 a.m. General Session – Ballrooms Central & South  
Commission & Committee Reports  
Recess  
11:30 a.m. SAL Meetings & General Session - Des Moines Room  
8:30 a.m.  
10:00 a.m. American Legion Riders – WView Central & South  
11:30 a.m. Past District Commanders' Luncheon – Iowa C, D, & E  
12:30 p.m. General Session – Ballrooms Central & South  
Commission & Committee Reports Continued  
Recess  
2:50 p.m. District Caucuses  
2:00 p.m. District 1 - Room 397  
District 2 - WView Central  
District 3 - Room 396  
District 4 - Room 394  
District 5 - Room 175  
District 6 - Room 398  
District 7 - Room 292  
District 8 - WView South  
District 9 - WView North  
3:00 p.m. Convention Committee Meetings  
Convention Place – Room 396  
3:00 p.m. Color Guard Practice – Ballrooms North, Central, & South  
4:00 p.m. Color Guard Contest – Ballrooms North, Central, & South

**Sunday, July 11, 2021**

7:00 a.m. DEC Spouse Breakfast – Iowa B  
8:00 a.m. Memorial Service – Ballrooms North, Central & South  
9:00 a.m. General Session – Ballrooms Central & South  
Recess for The American Legion of Iowa Boys State  
Special Order of Business – Election of Member to Boys State Board of Directors  
Reconvene General Session  
Adjourn – Department Convention

Post-Convention Boys State Board Meeting & Post-Convention DEC Meeting – Iowa B & C

**JSSP National Championship**

Congratulations to Ayden Wells and Tha Dah from Des Moines North MCJROTC on their acceptance to compete at this year's American Legion JSSP National Championship in Colorado Spring July 22-24, 2021. Both shooters have worked hard over the course of this season to qualify for this opportunity. Des Moines North MCJROTC are affiliated with Hiland Park American Legion Post #374 in Des Moines.

## National Convention August 27 – September 2, 2021 Phoenix, AZ

The annual National Convention is the governing body of The American Legion. Delegates and alternates to the National Convention are elected at District Spring Conferences. If you are not elected as a delegate or alternate at the District Spring Conference, you may still attend the National Convention as a guest.

Registration form for delegates, alternates, and guests to the National Convention are available through Department Headquarters or can be downloaded from the Department website at [www.ialegion.org](http://www.ialegion.org).

The Department of Iowa will be housed in the Hyatt Regency in Phoenix. Room reservations must be made through Department Headquarters.

**Registration deadline: June 15, 2021**

## Department Membership Chairman Report

My fellow Legionnaires, it has been a pleasure working with each and every one of you over the past four years. It has been a great experience visiting with you at your Posts, District Conferences and at Department Conventions. All of your help to make out National Vice Commanders Tours and National Commanders Tours successful is so much appreciated by your Department Staff and me. Your firm commitment to the American Legion has made these events possible.

It takes a lot of hard work behind the scenes by you to make the Tours possible. You opened your Posts, supplied food and beverages and brought in your Legion Family members. All of this was to show support for the National Commanders and National Vice Commanders as they toured our Posts and our State. Thanks again because without your help none of that would be possible.

It has been trying for me since National switched to the new one step login. I have been unable to log in nor look at any National Membership materials so that has made it difficult to help you. I am depending all of you and know that you all will do what you can to renew your members. Work together as a team and you will be successful. I am confident you can meet your goals.

This morning I found out that all the Membership material that was to be distributed on Friday, June 4 will not be here due to delays from the printer at National. So be ready for nothing being here until late June and possibly early July. This will not stop you from renewing members just a delay in sending them their cards and send renewals to Department. If you have the ability to log in online it would be appreciated if membership is processed online.

Thanks again for the opportunity to work with all of you.  
Donald Swan



Department Adjutant and Legionnaires Insurance Trust Director John Derner presents a check for \$43,629 Department Commander James Kessler.

## Department of Iowa Receives \$43,629 from LIT

The Legionnaire Insurance Trust (LIT) was formed in 1966, with two primary goals: to provide Legion families with low-cost insurance protection and to provide a source of revenue to participating Departments. Since joining the program in 1992, The Department of Iowa has received a grand total of \$1,725,383 from the program. Additionally, the LIT provides a free Accidental Death and Dismemberment policy to all adult Legion, Auxiliary, and SAL members of the Department of Iowa who enroll.

At the LIT annual meeting in April, held virtually, the Department of Iowa received \$43,629 from the program for 2020. The revenue is generated through the voluntary purchase of insurance products by our members. Those products include: Hospital HELP Plan, Cancer Care, Accidental Death Protection, Travel Accident, Emergency Assistance, Medicare Supplement, Health Insurance, Dental Insurance, Long-Term Care, Lifeline Medical Alert Service, and Identity Theft Resolution. For more information on LIT products, call 800-235-6943 or visit [www.TheLIT.com](http://www.TheLIT.com).

## Walk for Veterans Iowa State Fair Grounds

Department Commander James B. Kessler will lead American Legion Family Members and friends in a Walk for Veterans. This may be the final year for the walk as we celebrate The Centennial of The American Legion.

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 between 7:00 am and 10:00 am.

Participants must register (free registration) with The American Legion of Iowa before July 10, 2021. The cost of a Walk for Veterans shirt is \$10.00. All walk 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 [john@ialegion.org](mailto:john@ialegion.org) or view online at [www.ialegion.org/wfv](http://www.ialegion.org/wfv).

