



THE AMERICAN LEGION  
DEPARTMENT OF IOWA

# IOWA LEGIONNAIRE &

## Auxiliary Communiqué

An Official Publication of The American Legion, Department of Iowa: September 2022



### Randy Johnson (Deep River #296) Elected New Department Commander

On the final day of our annual Department Convention, Randy Johnson was elected the new Commander of the Department of Iowa. Commander Johnson will serve 2022-2023. Randy Johnson was born and raised in Deep River Iowa. He graduated from Deep River-Millersburg

High School in 1978. In Feb. 1980 he enlisted in the USAF and spent the next two decades serving his country. He is a Desert Shield/Desert Storm veteran, deploying to the Gulf and serving with the 1610th Air Division (Provisional) Riyadh Saudi Arabia, and later with US Central Command, Al Muthanna Province, Iraq from Aug 1990-Mar 1991. He is a Paid Up for Life member of Morrison Schrader Post 296 in Deep River, serving in leadership positions at the post, district, and department levels. Randy is a dual SAL Squadron 296 member. Learn more from Commander Johnson on the next page.



### 2022 Walk For Veterans

The American Legion of Iowa participated in the annual Veterans Day Parade at the Iowa State Fair with the Walk for Veterans on Monday, August 15, 2022. Legion Family was well represented as Past Department Commander Robert "Bob" Waugh (2021-2022) led the yellow shirt walk carrying the Walk for Veterans banner with Department Vice Commander Jennifer Rehbein (Ames #37).

Department Color Guard Champions from Durant Post #430 led the yellow shirts. Department Commander Randy Johnson drove the new Commander's van and was followed by The Department Auxiliary's van with Department Auxiliary President, Jayne Soppe. In addition to the many participants walking down the Grand Concourse, a handful of Legion Posts, Units, and Squadrons were also represented during the parade in various vehicles and floats.

The American Legion of Iowa provided information under a covered tent at the booth along the Grand Concourse. Thank you to all the Legion Family volunteers who took the time to represent The American Legion Family by walking or helping at the canopy.

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

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### DEADLINES & DATES

- September 1**  
History Books Due
- September 5**  
Labor Day  
Department Offices Closed
- September 15**  
Post Officer Forms Due to Department
- September 16**  
American Legion Day
- September 17**  
8th District Conference - Breda
- September 24**  
6th District Conference - Nevada
- September 24-25**  
National Combined Americanism Conference  
Indianapolis, IN
- October 1**  
9th District Conference - Le Mars
- October 5**  
Dept. Americanism Workshop - Virtual
- October 8**  
1st District Conference - Swisher  
2nd District Conference - Center Point
- October 8-13**  
National Fall Meetings - Indianapolis
- October 10**  
Christopher Columbus Day  
Department Offices Closed
- October 15**  
4th District Conference - Cresco  
5th District Conference - Ottumwa
- October 22**  
3rd District Conference - Reinbeck  
7th District Conference - Corning
- October 30**  
SAL Fall Conference - Dept. HQ
- November 1**  
Election Day
- November 11**  
Veteran's Day  
Department Offices Closed
- November 14-18**  
National Vice Commander's Tour
- November 15**  
Boys State Orientation Dates due to HQ  
Oratorical District & Area Contest Dates due  
Winter Legionnaire Articles due
- November 19**  
PDC Rally
- November 24-25**  
Thanksgiving & Day After  
Department Offices Closed
- November 30**  
Firefighter of the Year &  
Law Enforcement Officer of the Year due to HQ
- December 2**  
Department Christmas Open House - 3 PM
- December 10**  
Boys State Board Meeting - 10 AM HQ





**The American Legion, Department of Iowa**

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

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Randy Johnson    Deep River    [commander@ialegion.org](mailto:commander@ialegion.org)

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 Shane Pankonen

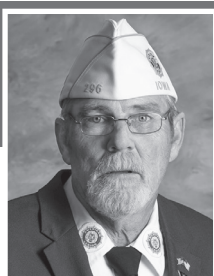
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## Department Commander

### Randy Johnson

Hello Dept. of Iowa Legion Family,

Let me introduce myself. I was born and raised in Deep River Iowa and graduated from Deep River-Millersburg High School in 1978. In Feb. 1980 I enlisted in the USAF and spent the next two decades serving our country. I am a Desert Shield/Desert Storm veteran, deploying to the Gulf and serving with the 1610th Air Division (Provisional) Riyadh Saudi Arabia, and later with US Central Command, Al Muthanna Province, Iraq from Aug 1990-Mar 1991.

After our military retirement, my wife Gail and I moved our family back to Iowa and began a second life. I have been active in my community as a bar/restaurant owner, serving 12 years on the City Council (Mayor for 6yrs), and I currently serve on the review board for the Greater Poweshiek Community Foundation providing financial management support to partnering nonprofit agencies. I am a Paid Up for Life member of Morrison Schrader Post 296 in Deep River, serving in leadership positions at the post, district, and department levels. I am a dual SAL Squadron 296 member.

From the Korean War to the War on Terror, my family boasts 9 veterans that served proudly. Out of that comes fifty-four, active Iowa American Legion Family members.

Our Goals for 2022-2023:

- STOP our decades-long membership slide
- Grow our Dept of Iowa Service Office
- Create awareness for female veteran needs
- Monitor and maintain our state and local veterans' services and benefits

My Commander Project:

I believe If Our Veterans Are Taken Care Of, So Are Their Families and Our Communities Reap The Benefits. Our Department Service Office is staffed by accredited American Legion service officers. It is our department's greatest asset – they represent 70% of the VA Claims in Iowa. It's my intent to bring staffing to 100% and help raise the funds to do it. That's a tall order, but with growth in membership and you standing with me, this project is doable.

To our Legion Family: It's truly remarkable to think of how powerful we can be when we stand together, support each other to the fullest and understand The American Legion has one mission. To enhance the well-being of America's veterans, their families, our military, and our communities by our devotion to mutual helpfulness. Our Auxiliary stands with us as they support The American Legion and honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of all veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad. Our SAL supports everything we do and is always there for us. Our Legion Riders continue to raise hundreds of thousands of dollars for children's hospitals, schools, veterans' homes, severely wounded servicemembers, and scholarships. They are true advocates.

I would like to conclude by saying how welcome our entire Legion Family has made us feel in our travels. I intend to stay busy throughout the year and am looking forward to each and every day.

It takes a TEAM.

**Commander Randy**



## Department Adjutant

### John A. Derner

On Friday, July 8, 2022, at the Department Convention, I was recognized for my 20 years as an employee of The American Legion, Department of Iowa. I would like to

thank all those involved in providing that recognition – the department staff, my wife Robyn, the Past Department Commanders, my fellow Department Adjutants, and especially Dave and Ann Rehbein.

One of the gifts presented to me that evening was a book of memories compiled by Dave and Ann. Each living Past Department Commander provided memories of their year, and for the deceased past commanders, the book provided highlights from their year. The book also contained memories from current and past department adjutants from around the country. It was a gift that truly moved me and one that I will always cherish.

Longevity as a Department Adjutant can only happen with the support of others. For me, that support begins with my family. My wife Robyn has been with me on this journey from the start. I cannot thank her enough for the love and support she provides. I would also like to thank my sons Michael, Matthew, and Andrew. They will never understand the sacrifices they make to enable me to do this job because it is the only life they have ever known.

That support has also come in the form of mentors. It is impossible to mention them all, but there are a few I would like to call out. The first of which are my parents, Gene, and Vera Derner. Both were active in The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary for as long as I can remember. They set the example for the difference an individual can make in the community as a member of this great organization.

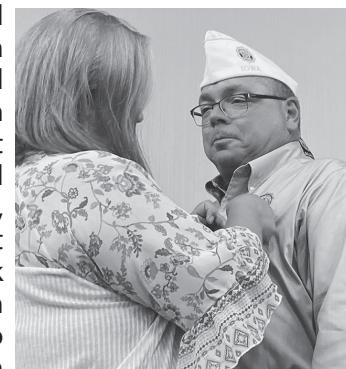
Other mentors include Gary Haverman and Mike Wanser, who introduced me to the organization beyond the post level, Mel Goslar and Bill Goetz who provided guidance as I became an officer in the 8th District, Past Department Adjutant Jim Demarest, the Past Department Commanders, and of course Ken Danilson and Past National Commander Dave Rehbein.

I believe the greatest benefit of being a member of The American Legion, is the association we have with our fellow members. As I reflect on the past 20 years as an employee, and my past 29 years as a member, that is what stands out, our members.

My membership in The American Legion has introduced me to some of the finest people I have ever known. And I would not have known them had it not been for my involvement in this organization. It began at the post level and continued to the county, district, department, and national levels. Every step along the way has afforded me the opportunity to meet great people.

A lot has changed over the past twenty years, but the heart and soul of the organization remain the same. That heart and soul are our members. Our members take care of our fellow veterans. Our members serve the communities we live in. Our members provide opportunities for our youth, and our members remain focused on strengthening America.

I strongly encourage each of you to become more involved in the American Legion. If for no other reason, do it to meet your fellow members. It will lead you to new friendships and new opportunities. You never know where the journey will lead you.





### National Executive Committeeman Dennis Soppe

Greetings Legionnaires of Iowa, Hope you all are having a great summer. Many things have happened over the last months.

First, I would like to give a shout-out to our Legion Riders, Patriot Guard, and others for all you do for our organization. From escorting the Moving Wall, the open-wheeled race cars to Newton, and the funds you raise for our Children and Youth programs - Thank You!

I must also thank our Legislators in Congress for passing the P.A.C.T Act. The road to passing this bill was

a bit bumpy. This deals with toxins that veterans were exposed to while serving. But by you Legionnaires contacting your Senators we persevered and now 3.5 million Vets are now eligible for VA Benefits.

In August your NEC and ANEC will be going to Milwaukee for our National Convention. One of the resolutions to be voted on will be to amend our National Constitution and By-Laws to allow multi-year and rolling memberships. If I understand this correctly members will be able to pay their dues 3-5 years in advance at current Post due levels. My question is who will keep records? Post Finance Officer, Dept Adjutant, or will it be at National? If you have thoughts on this let me know before Milwaukee. You are going to be hearing a lot about the "BE THE ONE" campaign. It deals with Veteran suicide. Our

incoming National Commanders will be promoting this as we try to get on top of Veteran suicides. We all can help in this endeavor.

BE THE ONE to:

- ASK veterans in your life how they are doing
- LISTEN when a veteran needs to talk
- REACH out when a veteran is struggling

You can pledge to Be the One by signing up for email updates at [betheone.org](http://betheone.org).

I would like to welcome new District officers and we will be seeing you at District Conferences with reports from our Fall meetings.

In closing, I hope everyone has a good time and a safe journey to our National Convention.

**Dennis Soppe**



### Department Service Officer Shane Pankonen

The Veteran's Administration recently announced it is adding nine rare respiratory cancers to the list of presumed service-connected

disabilities in relation to exposure to toxic chemicals. Exposure to these chemicals through air, water, or soil for Veterans who served any amount of time in the Southwest Asia Theater of Operations.

The following list: Squamous cell carcinoma (SCC) of the larynx, SCC of the trachea, Adenocarcinoma of the

trachea, Salivary gland-type tumors of the trachea, Adenosquamous carcinoma of the lung, Large cell carcinoma of the lung, Salivary gland-type tumors of the lung, Sarcomatoid carcinoma of the lung and, Typical and atypical carcinoid of the lung.

Any Veteran who had one of these cancers manifest to a degree of 0% or more at any time during or after separation would be eligible for service-connection benefits.

VA will begin processing disability compensation claims for Veterans who served any amount of time in the Southwest Asia Theater of Operations beginning Aug. 2, 1990, to the present, or Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, Syria or Djibouti beginning Sept. 19,

2001, to the present.

VA will contact impacted Veterans and survivors to inform them about their eligibility and will provide information on how to apply.

Veterans, dependents, and survivors who had claims previously denied for any of the below respiratory cancers would be encouraged to file a new or supplemental claim for benefits once the rule-making process is complete.

If any questions arise regarding VA benefits, please contact Shane Pankonen, DSO @ 515-323-7532, or [shane.pankonen@va.gov](mailto:shane.pankonen@va.gov)



### Department Chaplain Whitney Smith McIntosh

Be not afraid is in the Bible 365 times

Be not afraid is in the Torah 103 times

For veterans considering joining a post, many questions and fears may occur. I remember when I was considering joining I spent time visiting posts in my area and talking to the commanders of each post to get a feel of the culture. The final cost of membership is not prohibitive but I also did not want

to spend money on a group that I was not sure I would believe in. I am so glad I took the "just-one-year" leap.

The legion has become my extended family. There is nothing like knowing that the commonalities we share: the background, the understanding, and even the manner in which we speak show me that I am at home. My one-year trial of the legion has turned into working towards PUFL (paid up for life).

STORYTIME :)

Regardless of what your job, rank, or deployment experience was while active, we are all equals.

On August the 2nd I had the honor of blessing the escort detail of the Wall that Heals, ( a replica of the Vietnam Veterans Wall). When my time came I stood

on a park bench, uncovered, and started to pray. I tried to remind myself of the above line, "we are all equal in the Legion" While that line is comforting sometimes standing in front of over 100 members of the American Legion family and delivering a message was daunting for me. My legs were shaking and for the first time in a very long time, I had to remind myself to breathe. The prayer made it out of my head and into the hearts of the escort. Everyone arrived safely thanks to the ultimate commander God our Lord and road captains Top Hat and Tail Gunner and I did not embarrass the family name nor did I pass out.

Take a chance, know that you have our support, and surprise yourself with the result.



### Sons of The American Legion Detachment Commander Jim Lastovka

Build for Tomorrow – It Began Yesterday.

We must keep building or there won't be a Tomorrow. I set some Detachment goals. Encourage the Squadrons to support (financially and/or volunteer) a youth program in their communities. 1- Get our Squadrons doing more in their communities. 2- Get the communities

to be better acquainted with the Squadron in their community. 3- Get more youth involved in activities in their communities; whether they are Legion programs or not, but more importantly get them involved in their communities. 4- Introduce the youth to The Sons of the American Legion and their parents the American Legion Family and entice them into joining the family.

The best program receives a pair of rooms for members of their Squadron to come to convention to receive their award. (1) Submit narrative with their Consolidated Squadron report for judging. (2) Get more Son's members coming to convention and

hopefully interested in coming to more Detachment activities. (3). Cultivate an interest in becoming Detachment officers. (4). More fresh ideas come to make the Detachment better. (5) Photo opportunity to run in the Legionnaire of the Squadrons accomplishments and receiving their award.

We will be receiving our 6th Triple Nickel at National Convention in Milwaukee. Let's all work on getting our 7th it takes all of us to do this so let's make it a year.

The Detachment is looking for an Assistant Adjutant. Those interested contact Brain Kessler, Detachment Adjutant.





### 1st District Commander Gerald Bennett

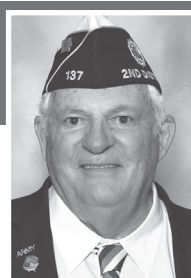
My fellow Legionnaires,

A big congratulations to District 1 on their 100.22 % membership, last year! That took a lot of effort, by a lot of people and the hard work paid off. Let's maintain the focus, and dedication, to make this an equally good year. Don't forget to work on new membership too. Carry an application or two in your vehicle!

I'd like to recognize Post #228, out of Williamsburg, on the John Werner bridge dedication. John was an Army, SPC5, helicopter mechanic, during the Vietnam War, and KIA on 8/23/1970. He was the only Williamsburg vet to die in Vietnam. The ceremony was well attended, and well represented by our District. The ceremony was supported by several surrounding posts and veteran's organizations. The Williamsburg VFW provided the Color Guard, and Victor Post #54 provided the Rifle Squad. It's great to see communities support each other, and it's that support that makes me proud to be a member of the American Legion Family!

It's great to see posts, like Post #228 getting involved in community events. It's a good representation of what the American Legion family is about, supporting veterans, and communities. I look forward to reporting on similar involvements in future articles. Until next time.

**For God and Country,  
Jerry Bennett**



### 2nd District Commander Jerry Becker

Greetings to 2nd District Legionnaires and your families.

It is hard to believe it is August already, and school is about to start.

I am looking forward to my 2nd year as your District Commander.

Like the past year I would love to come to visit your post-meeting; please just let me know when your meetings are or any special celebrations.

A reminder that our fall conference will be held at Center Point Post 297 at the Center Point library on Oct 7 & 8, 2022. Our spring conference will be hosted by Epworth Post 650, Farley Post 656, and Auxiliary Unit 656, on April 14 & 15, 2023.

I would like to congratulate and say thank you to Preston Post 602 for celebrating 100 years. I along with Dick Bries, 2nd district vice commander, and Carol Mooney, district two auxiliary president, thank you for the invitation to your celebration.

Congratulations to Epworth Post 650 for starting a Sons of the American Legion chapter. They will be a

great asset to your post. If any district two posts are interested in starting a Sons Chapter, let me know and I will get you in touch with district two SAL advisor Dennis Kloser.

My challenge to each of you is: If you know anyone who has served, either male or female, ask them to join the American Legion. Tell them we gain strength in numbers, and the Legion has many programs that benefit our young people Who Are Our Future.

**For God and Country,  
Jerry Becker**



### 3rd District Commander Jeff Large

Greetings Legionnaires,

If you were not able to attend our Department Convention, you missed out on a ton of information that could be of use to your post

and fellow Veterans. Department's next big event is the Mid-Winter Conference, posts should plan now to send a delegate.

The Iowa Veterans Home in Marshalltown is obtaining its very own Post Charter in the upcoming months! This is fantastic news for them, and they are looking

forward to having their own post.

Special thanks to Randy Zimmerman with ZLine Trucking for transporting the "Wall that Heals" to and from various locations around the Midwest. Additionally, thank you to Commander Dixie Kapayou for having the Meskwaki Post 701 as the sponsoring Post for this incredible display.

A handful of Posts from across our District will be turning in their charters for various reasoning. The members of those posts will speak to a neighboring post to join. Post Membership Officers, contact the district with more information on assisting the transfer of these members.

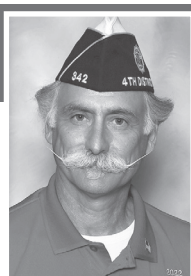
The next major date for our district is October 22nd.

That is the date of the Fall Conference in Reinbeck. If each Post Commander could make a plan to spend a few hours with other leaders, our District can once again thrive.

Remember all that the Legion represents and is here to advocate for. There has been no more important group of like-minded people formed in the last 100 years than the American Legion.

I am looking forward to another fantastic year as Commander and continue to hope to meet all of you in my travels.

**For God & Country,  
Jeff Large, USA**



### 4th District Commander Fritz Kies

Hello again to all my fellow Legionnaires of Northeast Iowa,

Mark your calendars now, the 4th District conference is scheduled for Saturday, October 15th at Post 135

in Cresco. Post adjutants and commanders should be receiving a letter with more details. We hope to see many of you there. Don't forget to get your Post Officer reports into the Department by September

15th, even if there have been no changes.

Thank you again to all the posts in the district that turned in their Consolidated Post Reports (CPR's) on time, either electronically or paper form, we led the department in total percentage. This report is vital to showing what we do as a veterans' organization, BZ (Bravo Zulu – that's navyspeak for good job) so keep it up.

September 16th is American Legion Day, so where your shirts and hats that day, maybe we can recruit a few new members. And speaking of membership,

I had the opportunity to attend the membership workshop and tour the National HQ in Indianapolis at the end of July with many of my fellow District Commanders, the Department Commander, Adjutant, and the Membership Chairman. What a great experience, I learned a lot and would be happy to pass it to you.

Lastly, if there is anything we can do for your post, please be sure to contact me or your vice commander at [fourthdistrict@ialegon.org](mailto:fourthdistrict@ialegon.org) or 319-493-1848.

**Fritz Kies**



### 5th District Commander Samuel Blumer

Hello Fifth District Family,

First off, I would like to congratulate Randy Johnson for being elected Department Commander. He has started off on the run and I see no sign of him slowing down.

Second, I would like to congratulate the elected Department Vice Commanders and my fellow District Commanders. I look forward to working with you all.

My goal for the year is to retain 100% membership from last year. To do this, we are setting up a call group of volunteers. We are going to visit Armories in our district and tell these potential Legionnaires about the Legion. We are going to do three membership drives throughout the year: October, February, and May. We will need to pick up 10 new members per month to achieve this goal. It is a very doable goal. And when I say we, I mean all of us, we are a team - we win as a team, or we fail as a team. It takes everyone in some way or another to succeed.

I would also like to take a day next spring and get volunteers together for a workday at the department headquarters. There are a lot of things that could be done around the building to make it more eye appealing.

I hope to see you all at District Conference at Ottumwa Post 3 on October 15th. Let's have a great year!

**For God and Country,  
Samuel Blumer**





### 6th District Commander Tim McLaughlin

My fellow Legionnaires and Legion Family,

As we start the new program year, I first have to express my appreciation to Jennifer Rehbein for her success over the last year. We need to

continue that success this year to stop the slide that our district and the department are experiencing. We have the tools to do that, first, the buddy check, checking on all our members making sure they're OK, and reminding them to pay their dues.

Renewals are key to the success of our organization. Ensuring our members are aware of what our posts have to offer, and what they can do to help other veterans will be key to strengthening our individual posts.

The second tool is visibility in our communities, participating in community activities and letting them know what we as a Legion Family are doing, this will encourage others to join the family and serve.

Finally, if you think they might be a veteran, just ask. If they are, then ask them to join. Don't be discouraged if they say no, ask again later. As an example, two veterans that I can remember asking, one took two

years, the other took 5 months asking 7 times. You can make it happen if you are persistent.

Finally, some reminders, CPRs start tallying and recording what you are doing now before you forget it, we all do something, record it, and check the Sixth District Facebook page for information.

The Fall District Conference will be on 24 September in Nevada at Post 48 and the library. Registration starts at 8 AM, the program at 9 AM, optional light lunch at 12 PM.

The district will be having a District Revitalization on 13-14 October, help will be needed, come and help our District grow.



### 7th District Commander Amy Muse

Greetings 7th "Pioneer" District!

The district has made incredible strides in 2022 and continues to impress as we march into the 2023 membership year. Very impressive was the "Fastest Growing Post in Iowa" Post 141 in Glenwood with 30+ new members and 15 HQ transfers for 118%.

Several Posts over 50 members, like Post 556 in Carson 105% and Guthrie Center 101%, focused on retention and HQ transfers as did several Posts under 50 members: Post 372 Persia 109%, Post 107 Mineola 107%, Post 575 Emerson 103%, Post 143 Woodbine 102%, Post 224 Dunlap 101%, with several more Posts

'stopping the slide' by attaining 100% retention.

Great job meeting veterans and their families in your community, pulling the 729 Rosters from online (contact me for the web address), and contacting Iowans that just need a Post to call home. Some Posts that submitted their Consolidated Post Reports, (CPR), were pleasantly surprised when they won awards at State Convention, like Post 146 in Stuart which swept Children & Youth awards for all their hard work. One of our oldest Posts, Ourcq Post 117 Corning, is revitalizing its Post after several years of inaction, while another town is gaining serious momentum on forming a new Post.

A Post in the 7th District conducting Post Buddy Checks was able to find a veteran in need of regular safety checks using a VA program and mail several other members get well/thinking of you cards that

would not have been found without making these vital member contacts. Please take the time to support TAL's Be the One campaign, which focuses on proactive engagement with fellow veterans and their families, rather than a reactionary response to the crisis.

I am looking forward to bringing the District Fall Conference to Corning on October 21-22. The hospitality event will occur at the Corning Hotel at 5 pm with the District Conference being held at the Oprah House in downtown Corning Saturday from 0900-1000. Registration for the Conference begins at 1000. Noon Memorial Service and banquet, with several organizations and Post Training in the afternoon.

**Respectfully,  
Commander Amy Muse**



### 8th District Commander Ken Fields

8th District Legionnaires,

The Fall Conference is rapidly approaching. This year we will be meeting on Saturday September 17th in Breda at Post 607. The conference will begin with registration at 0745. All Legionnaires and SAL members are welcome to attend the Fall Conference, and as a minimum every Post Commander and Adjutant should attend.

Membership is important to the 8th District, we need to retain current members, and reach out to those service members that have not yet joined the American Legion. I implore you to hold a face-to-face membership drive to add members to your post. A face-to-face meeting enables an exchange of information between the potential member and Post member about the programs of the American Legion. Be prepared to offer vital information and answer questions. Post Adjutants and Commanders please make every effort to collect dues for 2023 as soon as possible and turn them into Department Head Quarters. Let us put 8th District in 1st place for

membership by the PDC Rally in November.

Children and Youth, it is time to contact 5th grade teaches in your local elementary school district and hold a 5th grade flag essay contest at the Post level. Additionally, plan to hold an Oratorical Contest for Secondary (High School) at your post. The winner of the Oratorical Contest at the National Level will win a \$25,000.00 scholarship. Do not let the children in your community miss out on the opportunity to promote their future

**Sincerely,  
Kenneth Fields**



### 9th District Commander Chris Weinreich

Hello fellow Legionnaires!

It is my honor to serve as your commander for 2022-2023. Every commander has at least one goal that they would like to accomplish during their tenure(s). Certainly,

increasing membership in our district is chief among mine. However, membership is just one ingredient

that goes into making a prize-winning recipe.

Making buddy checks and taking care of the needs of ALL veterans are necessary ingredients. Participation in post programs and events are vital too. This is second nature to many members but not necessarily for newly recruited veterans. Have you gotten used to doing everything yourself because you just can't find willing members? Sound familiar? What do YOU get out of YOUR membership dues? Is membership as fulfilling as you thought it would be? Now consider that newer member who may not get to attend meetings. What does he or she get for their dollars?

Ask yourself: Can I make a difference? In the coming months, you will hear about a new Legion Tagline called: Be the One! The idea behind this is to encourage each of us to attempt to make a difference in the life of one or more veterans. When facing new challenges in the year ahead, ask yourself what you can do to make a difference in your post. Let me know if we can help. Until next time: stay well, communicate often, share your story and be the one that makes a difference!

**For God and Country since 1919,  
Chris Weinreich**

## 2022 Fall District Conferences

**September 17, 2022**

District 8 - Breda

**September 24, 2022**

District 6 - Nevada

**October 1, 2022**

District 9 - Le Mars

**October 8, 2022**

District 1 - Swisher

District 2 - Center Point

**October 15, 2022**

District 4 - Cresco

District 5 - Ottumwa

**October 22, 2022**

District 3 - Reinbeck

District 7 - Corning

**October 30, 2022**

SAL - Des Moines

For more details including hotel, banquet and hospitality if applicable, please visit:  
[www.ialegion.org/districtconferences](http://www.ialegion.org/districtconferences).



## American Legion of Iowa Riders

### Greetings Iowa Riders,

Hopefully, everyone made it through the heat of summer with no issues. It's been a busy and eventful one, that's for sure. We've had some tremendous success and I want everyone to know that none of it could have been done without the support and teamwork of all involved. I was told at convention "I'm glad the Riders are back". I replied that the Riders never left and that they hadn't seen anything yet. That weekend was the first time each of the districts was given the task of creating their own Legacy Run. Four Iowa Districts raised nearly four thousand dollars for the Legacy Fund. This fund has traditionally been the focus of Riders Chapters across the country, and on August 30th the Department of Iowa will proudly be on the stage at National Convention to do our part and show our support for the education of our Veterans' children. Thank you all for taking part, and I look forward to convention 2023, where we can do it again.

Speaking of Convention and the Legacy Run, as I write this I'm preparing to head off to Mobile, Alabama for my first run. We have a group of 4 leaving Ames, and there are over a dozen from Iowa that I know of that are taking part.

National Chairman, Mark Clark, has put together a terrific route and we are all looking forward to it. We'll see you in Milwaukee!

Thank you to everyone that took part in the IndyCar escort in July. We are the only Department

to organize a Riders escort for the Chip Ganassi team, and the Jimmie Johnson hauler specifically. What started as a question of whether we would do it, became something that garnered attention in both the racing community and the Legion families. I would like to give a big shout-out to Legion Marketing, Department Command, the Iowa State Patrol, Casey's, and Chip Ganassi for trusting us to do this and giving us the flexibility to adjust the plan to make it such a great show.

We've unfortunately had to postpone the USS Iowa ride. The planning wasn't coming together as we hoped it would and scheduling conflicts were making it worse. Rather than piece something together for



the sake of doing it, we chose to focus on doing it the way it should be done at a later date. The new date hasn't been set but expect it early in the riding season of 2023. I do have some great news to share regarding the USS Iowa though. It was approved at Department Convention to create a Legion Post USS797 for each member of the submarine crew to belong. There were a few details left to be finalized, one of them being if and how the Department would cover the cost of dues for the crew members.

Well, I'm proud to say that issue has been resolved.

A Legion Rider, Ray Shelly of Stuart Post, 146, has secured a dues-paying sponsor for the whole crew for their first year. This means that each Charter Member will know that their name is listed forevermore because of the efforts of a Legion Rider that took "Make it happen" seriously and, well, made it happen.

Every Legion Rider in the state of Iowa, be they a Charter, Chapter, Legacy, or Supporter member should be proud of what we've achieved. We've set the bar high, and there's no stopping us from doing more. Thank you all.

One last thing before I close out this issue, thank you to our current command staff, Cmdr. Randy Johnson, Aux Pres. Jayne Soppe, and SAL Cmdr. Jim Lastovka for going the extra mile and including the Legion Riders both on their pins and in their projects. It's truly a team effort.

**Cliff B.**  
**ALR Chairman**

## Americanism

School time is here, August 23rd, most schools have opened their doors to students of every grade by now.

I encourage all posts Americanism Chairman, and Post Commanders to get excited in reaching out to your schools'

Principals or teachers. Know what programs your post wishes to do, explaining to them which programs you would like to have their students participate in. Express the post's desire to talk to the

students directly about those programs you wish to have the students participate in. You, the posts must talk to the students, so they know their American Legion Post has a genuine interest in them participating. Many times, the post expects the teacher or guidance counselor to do their asking, but seldom do good results come out of that scenario. Four programs come to mind instantaneously 5th-grade flag essay, Oratorical program, Boys State, and Jr. Shooting. Now is the time to be promoting our programs, be positive, and show enthusiasm about the program you are speaking about, if you are not excited about the program, why should the student be excited to participate?

November 11th is Veterans Day!! Is your post doing a program in your school, are you inviting the public also? This is another excellent way to put The American Legion name in a very positive way in front of the community. Once more talk to the principal about using the school facilities, you have a genuine reason for asking permission to be in the school and be in front of the students and the public. Try to include the music departments in your program by having a Veterans Day Program. You have the opportunity of talking about the meaning of PATRIOTISM, AMERICANISM, and what the IMPORTANCE of these two words are to OUR FLAG and THE RESPECT it DESERVES, THE GREATEST FLAG IN THE WORLD!!!!

**James Kessler**  
**Americanism Chairman**



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# THE AMERICAN LEGION OF IOWA FOUNDATION

2022 Special Edition

*We Continue to Serve in Peace, As We Served in War.*

PAGE 7

## Solon Post #460 Hosts Golf Outing Benefiting Foundation

The banners shown here welcomed the golfers to the course in Solon on June 20 for the tournament benefitting the American Legion of Iowa Foundation.

Thirty teams of four golfers each teed off that morning for the fourth annual golf outing. This outing is organized by a group led by Larry Swann, District 1 Director for the Foundation, and Henry Rios. The golfers received a round of golf, cart, food, prizes and a morning of fun for their entry fee. They also know that part of their entry fee will be used to fund a number of charitable projects in SE Iowa as well as the Iowa Foundation.

The outing has grown each of the four years with this year, the team was forced to turn away entries due to the course restrictions. The generosity of the team to the Foundation has also increased each year. On July 30, the team invited each of the organizations that receive donations from the outing or grants



from the Foundation were invited to the Solon post to receive their awards.

That award to the Foundation was \$8,000 by far the largest ever. That money will be deposited into the principal of the Foundation to be used to generate income for future grants.

Among the organizations receiving grants that day in Solon was Miracles in Motion, an equine therapy program located in Swisher Iowa. They received \$3,000 to be used for their Fall Adaptive Riding and Horsemanship programs.

Those programs work with disabled youth and adults to learn to ride a horse to the best of their ability. Those programs will teach a total of 20 students to ride and be comfortable around horses. Their programs have been in operation for 34 years.

Two other grants were awarded to programs in the First District. Healing at



English River Outfitters is building a ramp and landing to allow disabled veterans use of their lodge. They received their check at Department Convention. Southeastern Community College in West Burlington received \$2,000 to provide scholarships for active military students or veterans.



PNC David K. Rehbein  
Foundation President

## About The American Legion of Iowa Foundation

Incorporated Nov. 29, 1978 as the charitable entity of the Iowa Department of The American Legion, the Foundation was organized as a mechanism for the Legion to provide financial assistance to promote Americanism, youth programs, veterans rehabilitation and community service in the state of Iowa.

Since 1979, over \$2.8 million has been contributed in support of veterans' assistance, educational programs, patriotic endeavors

and children and youth programs.

The American Legion of Iowa Foundation has accumulated a total permanent endowment fund over \$2.4 million. Earnings from this

endowment are dedicated to supporting programs of veterans' assistance, education and patriotic endeavors.

The Foundation's service is an unseen battle against poverty, degenerative youth, complacency and lack of patriotism. One way to fight is through meaningful philanthropy – to assist those who have not been fortunate as others. Your gift to the Foundation provides you with a role in the building the future – a role of which you can be proud.

We want to continue to better human life through scholarships, help to veterans, and other humanitarian causes. To do this, we need to increase the endowment that provides cash awards.

Every year we receive more requests from such organizations as colleges, veterans hospitals, and medical research groups. To help fund these deserving causes we want to continually increase the earning power of the Foundation by increasing the endowment.

Grant application procedures can be found on the website: [www.ialegion.org/iafoundation](http://www.ialegion.org/iafoundation). If you have further questions, please email [foundation@ialegion.org](mailto:foundation@ialegion.org) or call 800-365-8387.



Contact us for additional information on  
The American Legion of Iowa Foundation

**American Legion of Iowa Foundation**

720 Lyon Street  
Des Moines, IA 50309  
(800) 365-8387  
[foundation@ialegion.org](mailto:foundation@ialegion.org)

[www.ialegion.org/iafoundation](http://www.ialegion.org/iafoundation)





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# THE AMERICAN LEGION OF IOWA FOUNDATION



## How is the Foundation Grant Money Used?

On another page in this insert, you will find a listing of the grant applications that were approved at the 2022 annual meeting. That listing does not give you a very good idea of the actual use of the grant. With this issue we are beginning a better description of how that grant money is used and the benefits that come from it. Since the grant requests were just fulfilled a few weeks ago, the pictures may be from a previous grant.



Camp Courageous in Monticello received a grant of \$2,500 to assist in the construction of a mini-pitch soccer field. This field is completely enclosed to ensure the safety of the campers. It can also be used for basketball and other organized games.

Camp Courageous has seen the need for their services for the special needs population grow tremendously over the 50 years that they have served that population. They now provide services to over 10,000 children and adults in a year. They provide not only week-long camping experiences but also respite care so that caretakers can replenish their

energy.

Shown in the picture is a zip-line that a previous grant helped construct. It is safe and usable for all ages and abilities including a ride by the Foundation President and spouse on Memorial Day.

The Essex Child Care Center was presented a check for \$1,000 by Director Brian Ring. That money is to help with their project of installing security cameras in each of their classrooms with cabling and storage to provide video record of any incidents that happen in the classrooms or playground.

The Essex Center serves approximately 70 children ranging in age from 6 weeks to 12 years. They are anxious to ensure that they



provide a safe, secure environment for their clients.

Director Chuck Brunsting is shown presenting a check for \$2,000 to the Northwest Iowa Community College Fund to be used for scholarships for active military, veterans. This is one of 16 such checks distributed to colleges and universities across Iowa. These scholarships help with those expenses that are over and above GI Bill funds.



One of the scholarship recipients from last year wrote a thank-you note to the Foundation

that perfectly expressed why these scholarships are so important.

Tracy Hoover who attended Scott County Community College wrote:

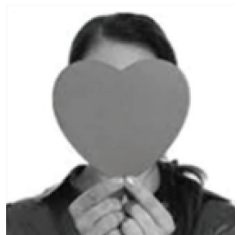
"I grew up on the poverty line during my childhood, with much financial hardship in my life; and it pains me to say that I still struggle at times. However, it does not embarrass me to say that I cried with joy and relief upon reading the Legion's scholarship award letter (not awarded just once, but twice!). I feel so incredibly blessed. These funds help to cover what financial aid and other grants do not fully cover, i.e., what I am otherwise liable for and what I am strapped for financially.

I am on my way to a better life both because of my experience in the military and the pursuit of an RN degree. My RN degree is now in part possible because of YOU: this amazing foundation. This means more to me than I can ever fully express."

Tracy served six years in the US Army as a medic leading her toward a career in healthcare. She is a nontraditional veteran student who struggled at times in her education.

That is a small sample of the grants that were awarded and what those grants mean to the local community and the people that are served. You have been generous. Please continue that generosity to make these projects possible.

## Foundation Donors – Who and Why?



So just who are these people that have contributed so much to the Iowa Foundation? Maybe an even more important question is why have they made donations so that the principal of the Foundation now exceeds \$2,225,000.

If you look, there is another page of this insert that lists the names of all of the donors since the summer issue of the Legionnaire. You might find the names of some of your friends in that listing. Heck, you might even find your name in that list. That is nothing more than just a list of names though. Names say almost nothing about the person and even less about what motivates that person to be who they are and do the things they do.

Let's start from the other end. Do we learn

anything about them based simply on their name appearing in that list? Of course we do. We know immediately that these are the people who care about more than just their life and their family and their home and possessions. They do care about those things but they also know that we all need to give a little more to try to make our community and our state and our nation and the world a better place. Not just a better place for them but a better place in general.

Many people make donations to various causes. For most of those donations, though, the donation is spent and then is gone. It served its purpose but is that the best that can be done. It is not and the Iowa Legion Foundation has a better way. Every donation made to our Foundation is invested not spent. The proceeds from that investment are the funds that are spent on the projects that our donors care about. Eventually



those investment proceeds being spent equal the donation itself while the original donation is still there earning more interest.

Now what do we know about the people on that list. They are no longer just names. They are people who care about more than just themselves. They care about making things better for those around them and in fact, for those who live a long ways away and who they don't know. They care because that is who they are. Not only do they care but they are intelligent enough to understand how to make their donations keep on giving.

If your name isn't on that list, should it be? Are you one of those people who care but who want to see their donations continue to give? We hope so. The Foundation Board has set a goal of \$3,000,000. It will take people like those we just described to reach that goal. What will that do? When we reach that goal, our grant total will be \$150,000 each year. You will make that happen and can take pride in who you are, what you have done and what you have helped create.





FALL 2022

# AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

## DEPARTMENT OF IOWA

### *Auxiliary Communique*

SERVING VETERANS, THEIR FAMILIES AND THEIR COMMUNITIES



PAGE 9



#### Auxiliary President Jayne Soppe

This year we will all be working TOGETHER as part of the American Legion Family of Iowa. The American Legion, Sons of the American Legion and Riders and Auxiliary members...

We would like to emphasize **Communication, Education, Marketing and Public Relations**. We need to "over" communicate with each other Keep the messages flowing back and forth and at all levels of our organization. We need to educate our friends, neighbors and youth to recite the Pledge of Allegiance, stand when the flag goes by and be proud to be a flag waving American. We need to let others know what we do thru newspapers, emails, Facebook, snapchat- whatever it takes. We need to invite others to join us helping Veterans, Military families and Youth. I truly believe this will lead us to increasing our membership...

Our theme is- **TOGETHER**, because we are strong, we are fierce and can accomplish great things working TOGETHER. Our Symbols are the Patriotic American Eagle- soaring high and sharing our strength, and the Red Cardinal. The cardinal represents our mentors – those still with us and those watching over us from above our Colors and colors of Red, Blue and Gold and **our Membership Theme** is "Every Piece fits, Together" with their song being "We're All in this Together" from High School Musical.

**Projects :** VAT- VibroAcoustic Therapy Chair for the Iowa Veterans Home, Wood and Leather Craft Kits for our VA Centers and "Be the One" campaign to help prevent veteran suicide. More info coming on this but we need to **ASK** veterans in your life how they are doing, **LISTEN** when a veteran needs to talk, **REACH OUT** when a veteran is struggling and everyone should sign up at [betheone.org](http://betheone.org) and **NOTE** that the new crisis phone number is 988..

I am stressing the American Legion Family working **Together** because there is no limit to what we can accomplish when we all work **TOGETHER!**



#### Auxiliary Vice President Mary Sypherd

Hi everyone, I would like to first thank everyone for your support. I am honored to be the Department Vice President for 2022-2023. I am excited to work with President Jayne this year, learning, traveling, getting to visit and share Together the Legion families all across Iowa. Looking forward to a great year.

## President Jayne's Acceptance Speech

We are all members of the largest Patriotic organization in the U S of A.

There is strength in numbers- the numbers we report to Congress- there is strength in working together-The American Legion , The American Legion Auxiliary, The Sons of the American Legion and the Riders. TOGETHER we can be unstoppable as we work for Veterans and their families.

We show our strength as we help our Veterans- listening, talking, helping and sharing with them, thru them, for them and because OF them. Like the Eagle we are fierce , we are strong, we love with our whole heart and we remember those who came before us- our cardinals- and those still here to help us.

TOGETHER ----- ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE!

We can work on our Mission KEEPING VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES OUR PRIORITY. We can welcome new and returning members to our family. We welcome the challenges and the opportunities of being part of a family. We can soar like the eagle, show our colors and remember – we are NOT alone- our cardinal mentors are always with us!

The cardinal reminds us of those who helped form us – for me it was Past Dept. Presidents from my District – Luci Davis, Bernice Hauer – from my town and one of the reasons I joined the Auxiliary and Sandra Heckstein- a very special friend. Some of our Cardinals have passed and many are still here sharing their wisdom and knowledge.

Just as the Eagle soars above us – a majestic symbol of our free country. The Red, White and Blue are our patriotic colors- I've always said they go with everything! We are more than a family – TAL, ALA, Sons and Riders work together at fish fries, funerals, color guards, parades, educating our youth, with our heroes, with each other but always, always, always..... TOGETHER! Like most families we have disagreements, "discussions" or arguments- what is important is to treat each other with respect and dignity- embrace new ideas, embrace change, move forward – TOGETHER.

My bible verse is Romans 8:28 "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God."

Our songs are: "Together anything is Possible" by Darius Rucker

"Courtesy of the Red, White and Blue" by Toby Keith

Our Membership Theme and song are- Every Piece Fits, Together

"Together" from High School Musical

My Presidents projects are a VAC -Vibroacoustic Chair for the Iowa Veterans Home, Craft kits – wood and leather for all VA centers and a third TBA project for Veterans if funds allow.

I want us to be the flag waving, patriotic examples to America that the U S A needs. Show off your Red, White and Blue colors, your American legion family branded clothing. Be the example – teach the kids in our schools about the Pledge of Allegiance, saluting our flag and showing it respect. As we stand, hands on heart, hats off when our flag passes during parades or events, know that many eyes are on us – whether it's the children or the heroes – Lead by example!!

We can change the world – we start with our world – our communities, our families and then expand our world. We CAN do it – one step at a time because TOGETHER anything is possible.

TOGETHER we can do it! CHANGE starts here and now -----TOGETHER!!!

# Blessed & Thankful

## ALA Presidents Thank You

I would like to thank the American Legion family of Sidney, Iowa for the hospitality given to myself, Commander Randy and our spouses for a wonderful tour of your impressive museum , supper and a great night at the American Legion Rodeo. A truly memorable evening and great time!

I would also like to thank the Units and Counties I have visited so far. I've attended meetings, installed officers and met so many, many awesome Legion family members! I look forward to meeting more in the months to come.





### 1st District President Barbara Lastovka

Hello Fellow Auxiliary Members:

My name is Barbara Lastovka. I am a 40 year member of the Swisher American Legion Auxiliary Unit 671. I will be serving as 1st District President this coming year.

I live in Amana, IA with my husband Jim. We have four children and six grandchildren. My husband

is the Detachment Commander of the Sons of the American Legion. I retired from College Community School District where I served over 20 years as a para-professional and custodian.

My father served in the Army in WWII and both grandfathers in WWI. My mom was a paid up for life member of the Auxiliary. My parents have passed. I have three brothers and one sister. All three of my brothers served their country. My sister and I have also been paid up for life Auxiliary members.

I have participated in several things throughout my

years of members. I have been a Junior Camp Counselor, worked countless funeral dinners, fish fries and events. I have served as a page at Convention and District. Most recently I participated in the Honor Guard.

I am looking forward to serving as 1st District President for the coming year. May God Bless America.



### 2nd District President Carol Mooney

Greeting to the  
2nd District American legion  
Auxiliary,

My Name is Carol Mooney, and I am from Dyersville Unit 137, This will be my 2nd year as your district President.

My husband, Mike and I will be married 10 years in Sept. Mike is a US Army Veteran who serve as a MP in

Panama during Desert Shield/Desert Strom.

We have two dogs Casey and Lady.

I became active with the legion family is because of my husband. I asked one of the legionnaires if they would talk to my husband about joining because I felt it would be helpful to him to meet other veterans who lived in the area. He said if he joined that I be a member of the auxiliary. At my first meeting I became secretary of the unit and the follow year I was asked to become president.

I have enjoyed coming to your units and counties this past year and I will again try to make as many as I can, to see all of our great members and to meet some new and old friends along the way.

You may contact me @ the email [alaseconddistrict@ialegion.org](mailto:alaseconddistrict@ialegion.org).

My project this year will be to raise money for the Veterans home in Marshalltown , IA



### 3rd District President Sandy Scallon

Greetings from Third District  
American Legion Auxiliary

My name is Sandy Scallon and I am a very proud member of the Ackley American Legion Auxiliary Post

#252 in Ackley. I am eligible through my father, John Robert "Jack" Murphy who served with the U.S. Army.

Recently I was contacted by the Eagle Investigative Services who help the Army find family members of missing in action soldiers! My Uncle went missing in 1943 and the Army is asking for DNA samples from three of his nearest relatives. Of course, I agreed and

hope my Uncle is found and can be brought home!

Please say a prayer for all our POW and MIA Veterans, for past, present and future Veterans who have and will protect our great Nation!

God Bless!



### 4th District President Dee Onken

Greetings,

First of all, we'd like to congratulate our 4th District member, Jayne Soppe, on being our new American

Legion Auxiliary President for a great year together!!

I am a PUFL member of Osage Unit 278. I joined the American Legion Auxiliary in 1983 in honor of my husband, Bob, who served in the Army. My husband, Bob, and I have two married children and six grandchildren. Our daughter is an Auxiliary member, our two granddaughters are Junior Auxiliary

members, and our son is an SAL member along with our four grandsons.

Our Fourth District Fall Conference is in Cresco on Oct. 15, 2022. We will be holding a Silent Auction event. You may contact me at [alafourthdistrict@ialegion.org](mailto:alafourthdistrict@ialegion.org) if you have any questions.



### 5th District President Jacki Bolen

SIMPLIFY AND UNIFY

As the newly elected 5th district President my goal is to bring back the basics, create excitement about being an auxiliary member and

promote unity within our district.

I'm a member of Deep River, Unit 296. Our unit has grown tremendously in the last 5 years and I will be applying a similar approach for growth at a district level to better serve our veterans.

I'm looking forward to meeting all of our unit leaders at our district programs workshop at the Deep River

Post home (221 Main St) on Saturday, August 20th with registration at 9:30am and meeting at 10:00am.

I'm anticipating a productive year while serving the entire Legion Family!



### 6th District President Mary Jo McLaughlin

Hello 6th District Auxiliary Members

It is going to be a great year for our Legion Family as we work together. Commander Tim and I are returning from previously holding these

positions in 2015-2016. Tim served 26 years in the Army and joined the Legion to help his fellow veterans. In 2008, I joined the Auxiliary so that together we could help our veterans. When we work together anything is possible; and that is why we will accomplish our goals this year – increasing membership and helping make a difference in the lives of our veterans, families and our communities.

As each community is known for their special traditions let them know who our American Legion Family is by what you do. Ask them to join you to accomplish our mission. Be proud of who we are and ask others to join us. Together we can make a difference. We can 'Be the One'.





**7th District President  
Patti Rolf**

Greetings from 7th District President Patti Rolf. I am excited for the upcoming year as serving the 7th District. I am a 20 plus

year member of Shenandoah Unit #88. We just completed our district programs workshop over the weekend. Please mark your calendars for the District Fall Conference, October 21-22, at the Corning Opera House, Corning Iowa. Lodging available at the Corning Hotel, call to book your room now. Please join us at the hospitality suite Friday evening at the

hotel. My presidents project will be The Fisher House, in Omaha, it is a great facility to support our veterans and family. Looking forward to a fun and busy year working "Together".



**8th District President  
Janice Dornath**

Greetings from your district 8 President Janice Dornath. I am looking forward to this year and hope it will be a good one. Let us do this together and we

can make it a good one. Hope to see all of you on September 17th at fall conference in Breda.



**9th District President  
Marjorie Brunsting**

Hello Ninth District. I had the privilege of serving as your District President in the past, and am honored to do so again. I live in Sioux Center with my husband,

Chuck, who served in the Navy for 30 years, 28 of which I shared (served) with him. While serving, we (I) raised our five children, living from coast to coast. Thankfully, I had a portable occupation as a Registered Nurse, so after all our children were in school, I went back to work, holding licenses in Hawaii, California, Pennsylvania, Colorado, California, Massachusetts and Iowa! We enjoy getting to meet

other Legion Family members around the state and I look forward to meeting you! Together we can make a big difference in our community, state and nation. Let your voice be heard!

**Children and Youth Chair**

Hi, my name is Mariah Johnson. I am your Children & Youth chairman this year. I am also the president of my local unit. My husband is Samuel Johnson, department vice commander. We have a 6 month old son named Ethan. I am a nurse and before that worked at a daycare so I have a love for all things children & youth! I can't wait to see everyone's ideas and involvement! Here's to an exciting year of learning and working together to support the children & youth of the veterans of our communities.

**Poppy Chair**

Hello American Legion Auxiliary members, my name is Judy Ring and I am your Poppy chair this year. My goal this year is to increase the visibility and meaning along with the history of the poppy. With that being said, lets get that pretty red flower out there more. It can be more than just a Memorial Day flower. How about wearing a poppy on Father's Day to honor his service and remember his sacrifices? Whatabout Veteran's Day or Flag Day? There are many ways to promote the poppy and I look forward to seeing how you promote the poppy this year.

Send me photos and ideas. Don't forget the contests that can be found on the Poppy page in the plan of action!



**American Legion Auxiliary Department of Iowa Marketing Committee**

The purpose of the newly created Marketing Committee (approved at Department Convention 2022) is to coordinate the marketing of our organization to business and industry for the purposes of awareness and contributions. The 5-member committee is conspired of the Department President Jayne Soppe, Executive Director Crystal Wright, and 3 members: Nicole Clapp Chairman, Karen Ripperger, and Constance Schlitter.

We need our membership's assistance in identifying individuals, businesses, and corporations who could potentially become partners with the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Iowa to further the mission of our organization. Please reach out to us at our contact information listed in the Blue Book of donors and vendors for our committee to consider. We thank you for your assistance!

Nicole Clapp, Past National President and Marketing Committee Chairman



**Chaplain**

Hi my name is Connie K. Wagner. I live near Osage, Iowa in the country. I love to garden, fish, sew, quilt and to watch NFL football. I find my peace and connection with my Lord when I see his presence in the beauty of nature. I joined the American Legion Auxiliary to help veterans, it is my way of honoring our military.



**Membership**

My name is Rosemary Lancaster. I am your Membership Chair, I have districts 1,5,6 we are the Blue team. Elaine Brookins has districts 2, 3, 4 she has the Gold team and Angie Blazek with districts 7, 8, 9 with the Red team. We are your 2022-2023 membership team. Our membership theme this year is "Every Piece fits, Together!" Membership song We're all in this together from High School musical. Please feel free to reach out to us. We will help you in any way we can. You can find us in the blue book. Looking forward to a great year!



## Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Committee

**Mary L. Sebben, Chairman**

**642 SE Williams Court**

**Waukee, IA 50263**

**mlsebben@aol.com**

**515-250-1363**

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation is committed to serving the medical needs of our veterans through the service provided to them out of our many VA medical centers around the country. Here in Iowa we have the Des Moines VA Medical Center and the Iowa City VA Medical Center. These two centers have ALA Representatives serving our veterans. In addition, we have Associate Representatives in Sioux Falls and Omaha. Although not a VA Medical Center, we like to recognize our own Iowa Veterans Home where we serve our veterans and/or their spouses.

The VAMC facilities and CBOCs (Community-Based Out-Patient Centers) need volunteers so if you have time on your hands and want to volunteer a few hours a week, a month to serve our veterans, please consider it. Let me know if you are interested and I will direct you to the proper contact.

Check out the needs lists of the various facilities just mentioned above. You can find them on the Department website. Please consider donating in-kind items and/or monetary donations.

If you donate monetarily, be sure to send your check payable to the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Iowa, and earmark it for the facility you wish the money to go to and the purpose for which you wish it used.

If you are going to provide in-kind items, please be sure to contact the facility first to see if there is a need for the items and, if so, be sure to include a donation form and value your items as the VA will not put a value to them. Also, contact them when you are delivering the items so someone can meet you at the entrance to accept your items. Due to Covid visitors are not allowed in the facilities at this time.

Consider providing baby gift baskets for the women's clinic or buddy baskets for homeless veterans transitioning from homeless status to an apartment. Providing flannel blankets for the dementia units is another potential service you can provide your VAMCs. Be sure to check with the facilities first to see if there is a need.

If you want to help our homeless veterans, consider volunteering at a stand down. Sioux Falls is scheduled for September 23 and the Des Moines stand down is scheduled for September 16-18.

Please either volunteer your time at a local VAMC or CBOC (Community-Based Out-Patient Center). They have given so much to serve us. We can do so much to repay that service and sacrifice through the VA&R program. As President Jayne's theme states "Together" we can do this for our veterans.

## Iowa American Legion Auxiliary Girls State

2023 Registration Process is All Online, All through CampWise!

Read on for more....

This year's registration process is as easy as 1 - 2 - 3!

1. Enter your contact information for your Unit and reserve your spots for 2023 Girls State. You will receive a special code for each reserved spot.

\*The contact person can be the Girls State Chair or Unit President.

\*This step needs to be completed before December 31, 2022.

\*Do NOT pay any money yet!!

2. Select a Girls State citizen(s) and give her the code to register. Each citizen gets their own special code.

\*This step needs to be completed before March 31, 2023. Make sure your citizen completes ALL steps of registration. (You will both get friendly reminders if she does not.)

\*After your citizen registers, your Unit will receive an invoice for \$400.

3. Pay the invoice for each filled reservation.

\*This step must be completed by April 15.

\*If reservations are unpaid, it will be expected that the citizens will not be attending.

There will be tutorial slides and videos on the ALA and Girls State websites to help you with registration (Units and citizens). The instructions for step one is already on the website! All highlighted items are what need to be completed. Please reach out and ask questions if you need assistance. We are happy to help, and it is our intent that this update in technology will help everyone in the long run!

We look forward to a great year, and a wonderful 77th session in June of 2023!

Mary Andersen, Director

Board Members: Jayne Soppe, Department President; Crystal Wright, Department Executive Officer; Kim Dixon, Ann Rehbein, Bev Copple

## Constance Schlitter

The Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF) is a national grant assistance program that provides temporary emergency assistance to eligible members of the American Legion Auxiliary who have endured a significant financial setback as the result of an act of nature or other personal crisis. The Application for Members Affected by Natural Disaster is available on the national website at: [www.legion-aux.org/aef-application](http://www.legion-aux.org/aef-application) and the Application for Members Needing Temporary Assistance is available at: [www.legion-aux.org/aef-temporary-assistance-application](http://www.legion-aux.org/aef-temporary-assistance-application).

One easy way to raise funds is to pass around a change jar at the beginning of meetings! If a unit had 10 members at their monthly meetings and they all donated just 50 cents every month, that'd be \$60 toward AEF annually! This is a simple way to raise funds without requiring members to make a huge donation at one time. You'll quickly see that every cent counts! I look forward to hearing how your units raise funds to contribute to AEF this year. Please feel free to email or call with any questions throughout the year.

## Department of Iowa Finance Team

Welcome to fall and a big Hello from your Department of Iowa Finance team! Together Julie Rosenboom, Ann Crawford and myself, Dawn Aberle, will work diligently on the Department of Iowa finances from the inside, but we need YOUR help on the outside!

How you ask? There are a few ways that are so very simple!

Number 1 – As a member – Pay your dues to your unit promptly – by doing this you save your unit as well as the organization overall from sending out multiple reminders to pay your dues.

Number 2 – As a unit – Make sure your unit pays their unit obligations to all levels by the appropriate due date – PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE make checks out to American Legion Auxiliary. DO NOT make checks out directly to your District/ County Treasurer personally, they cannot be cashed this way!

Number 3 – Make sure ALL Forms required are complete and filed on time, this helps the office staff to be able to communicate with each unit when necessary.

Did you know that each unit now has the ability to pay their members' dues online! Call the Department office to find out more information on this option!

Julie, Ann and Dawn







# THE AMERICAN LEGION OF IOWA FOUNDATION



PAGE 13

## 2022 Foundation Grants Awarded

### American Legion of Iowa

\$750.00	American Legion Boys State - Boys Nation Alternates
\$500.00	American Legion Boys State Governor Scholarship
\$500.00	American Legion Boys State Keith Baker Scholarship
\$6,000.00	American Legion Boys State Outstanding Citizen
\$2,250.00	American Legion Junior Shooting Sports
\$2,250.00	American Legion Oratorical Committee
\$2,250.00	American Legion Scouting Committee
\$1,500.00	American Legion Baseball Committee

### American Legion of Iowa Auxiliary

\$250.00	American Legion Auxiliary Girls State Governor
\$2,500.00	American Legion Auxiliary Junior Camp
\$250.00	American Legion Auxiliary Junior President
\$6,000.00	American Legion Auxiliary Girls State Outstanding Citizen

### Americanism, Children & Youth, Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation and Community Service

\$2,500.00	DSM Veterans Homeless Stand Down
\$2,000.00	Grout Museum Inc.
\$3,000.00	Healing at English River Outfitters
\$5,879.00	Iowa Veterans Home
\$1,200.00	MIW, INC. (Mid-Iowa Workshops, Inc.)
\$2,000.00	Clarke University
\$2,000.00	Paul B Sharar Foundation for Clinton Community College
\$2,000.00	Coe College
\$2,000.00	Des Moines Area Community College Foundation
\$2,000.00	Hawkeye Community College Foundation
\$2,000.00	Iowa Lakes Community College
\$2,000.00	Kirkwood Community College
\$2,000.00	Luther College
\$2,000.00	Northeast Iowa Community College Foundation
\$2,000.00	Northwest Iowa Community College

\$2,000.00	Scott Community College Foundation
\$2,000.00	Southeastern Community College Foundation
\$2,000.00	St. Ambrose University
\$2,000.00	University of Northern Iowa Foundation
\$2,000.00	University of Dubuque, "Sergeant Jeffrey B. Dodge Veterans Center"
\$2,000.00	Wartburg College
\$765.00	Big Brothers Big Sisters of Cedar Rapids & East Central Iowa
\$2,500.00	Camp Courageous
\$2,000.00	Children's Cancer Connection
\$1,000.00	ChildServe
\$1,000.00	Essex Child Care Center
\$1,250.00	Everybody Wins! Iowa
\$500.00	Hand in Hand
\$1,000.00	Hawkeye Area Council, Boy Scouts of America
\$1,000.00	Heart of Iowa Big Brothers Big Sisters
\$2,500.00	Inspiration Hills Camp & Retreat Center
\$500.00	JROTC - East Waterloo High School Army
\$500.00	JROTC - Marine Cadets of Iowa, Inc. (Formerly D.B.A. as Central Iowa Division Sea Cadets)
\$3,000.00	Miracles in Motion Therapeutic Equestrian Center
\$1,719.00	Northeast Iowa Council, BSA
\$1,000.00	Hope Haven, Inc.
\$1,000.00	Iowa Legal Aid
\$6,000.00	Iowa Military Veterans Band, Inc.
\$900.00	Life Skills Training Center, Inc
\$1,400.00	Link Associates
\$1,000.00	Mills County Public Health
\$2,000.00	Mosaic in Central Iowa
\$2,000.00	New Hope Village Foundation
\$600.00	New Horizons Adult Day Care Center
\$2,000.00	One Vision
\$2,500.00	RSVP of Jasper County (Sponsored by ISU Extension & Outreach of Jasper County)
\$500.00	West Fork Food Pantry

# TOTAL AWARDED: \$117,713.00

## 2022-2023 Foundation Board Members

David Rehbein, President & Emeritus  
Leonard Ernst, Vice President  
John Derner, Secretary & Treasurer  
Bob Waugh, Past Dept. Commander  
Larry Swann, 1st District  
Leonard Ernst, 2nd District  
Robert Wenger, 3rd District

Dennis Soppe, 4th District  
Steven Dixon, 5th District  
Steve Neal, 6th District  
Brian Ring, Sr., 7th District  
Melvin Goslar, 8th District  
Chuck Brunsting, 9th District  
Nicole Clapp, Emeritus Member

[www.ialegion.org/iafoundation](http://www.ialegion.org/iafoundation)





# THE AMERICAN LEGION OF IOWA FOUNDATION



## 2021-2022 Iowa Foundation Donors

### Individual Donors

Bert & Dawn Aberle  
Charlie Becker  
Harold & Carolyn Berglund  
Kristi Bridges  
Nicole Clapp  
Bev Copple  
Ann Crawford  
James Dean  
Dwight Dinkla  
Steve & Kim Dixon  
Stan Elliott  
Kelly Elliott  
Mike Etzel  
Scott & Collette Ford  
Mel Goslar  
Thomas A Hartsock  
Doug Honse  
David Honse  
Bruce Jeffries  
Sam Johnson  
Brian Johnson  
James Kessler  
Alida Kolthoff  
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Lois Purdy  
Don Rasmussen  
Dave & Ann Rehbein  
Judy Ring  
Brian Ring, Sr.  
Ken Rochholz

Ed Rohner

Jim &amp; Lu Rolfes

Robert Schumacher

Diana Shaddock

Teresa Shaw

Renata Shotwell

Dennis &amp; Jayne Soppe

Jack St. Peters

Deann Struble

Jim Zacharias

### American Legion Posts & Districts

Post #29

Post #34

Post #37

Post #321

Post #374

Post #396

Post #460

Post #481

Buchanan County

Sioux County

9th District

7th District

5th District

3rd District

### American Legion Auxiliary Units & Districts

Unit #37

Unit #562

9th District

### Sons of The American Legion

Squadron #37

Squadron #241

SAL Detachment

### Other Donors & Organizations

Legion Foundation Golf

Tournament

Northeast Iowa Charitable

Foundation

AL Riders Post #1

Past District Commanders

*Thank you  
for your  
thoughtful  
generosity and  
contributions  
to the  
Foundation!*



## Levels of Recognition for Donors

*The Eternal Flame Society allows for recognition of donors at multiple levels for their specific contributions. You will be recognized at each plateau as you achieve that level.*

### The Booster Program

**Supporter** - A donation between \$1,000 and \$1,999.

**Sentinel** - Donations between \$2,000 and \$2,999.

**Sterling** - Donations between \$3,000 and \$3,999.

**Statesman** - Donation between \$4,000 and \$4,999.

**Sponsor** - Donations between \$5,000 and \$9,999.

### The Pinnacle Program

**Guardian** - A donation between \$10,000 and \$24,999.

**Benefactor** - Donations between \$25,000 and \$49,999.

**Patron** - Donations between \$50,000 and \$99,999.

*The Philanthropic Society has been established to effectively recognize major donors who make contributions in excess of \$100,000.*

**Bronze Members** - Donations between \$100,000 and \$249,999.

**Silver Members** - Donations between \$250,000 and \$499,999.

**Gold Members** - Donations in excess of \$500,000.

*The Foundation would like to thank our many generous donors who make this a possibility!*

## Contributions to The American Legion of Iowa Foundation

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Home or Business Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Please credit (circle or more): The American Legion    The Auxiliary    SAL    Individual District # \_\_\_\_\_

My Gift is in Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_ In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to: The American Legion of Iowa Foundation  
Mail to: Iowa American Legion Foundation - 720 Lyon St. - Des Moines, Iowa 50309  
Phone: (800) 365-8387

Gifts to The American Legion of Iowa Foundation are tax deductible to the full extent permitted by law.









## 2022 Department Baseball Champions

The Department of Iowa concluded its baseball season with a one-day State Tournament between four teams played at Cardinal Field in Spencer, Iowa. Those teams were Hiawatha (Post #735), Merville (Post #303), Woodbury County (Post #662), and Iowa Great Lakes (Post #384) who hosted the tournament.

The tournament began with game one at noon between Iowa Great Lakes and Merville. This final score was close, as a Merville edged out Great Lakes 5-4. Game two was played between Woodbury County and Hiawatha. Both teams gave their all, but Woodbury County pulled ahead to win with a score of 12-6.

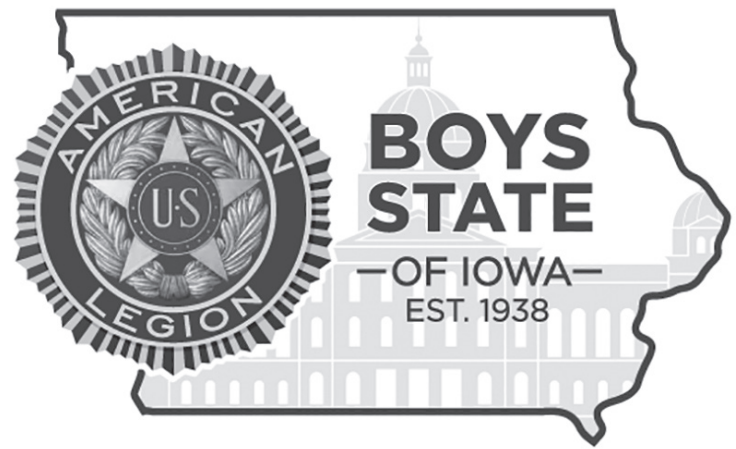
The Championship Game was a close game all the way to the end. Tied up 4-4 in the last inning, Merville scored the extra run to defeat Woodbury County 5-4 and advanced to the regional Central Plains Tournament in Rapid City, South Dakota. The Central Plains Tournament would have teams from Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Minnesota join Iowa.

Merville started early in the regional tournament against the team from Millard South, Nebraska. Merville's opponents jumped off to an early lead and unfortunately kept that lead throughout the game delivering Iowa's first loss. Merville went on to play Sioux Falls, South Dakota in game five where Iowa was ultimately given their second loss cutting their journey short.

The Department of Iowa would like to extend its congratulations to Post #303 and Merville Futures on a job well done. The Department Baseball Committee would like to extend its gratitude to Iowa Great Lakes Okobojis coaches, players, volunteers, and Milford Post #384 for hosting a great state tournament. Thank you to the City of Spencer for allowing The American Legion of Iowa to spend the day playing America's favorite pastime.

Lastly, the Baseball Committee awarded Carroll County Merchant's Cal Wanninger the 2022 American Legion of Iowa Baseball Scholarship winner. The runner-up scholarship was awarded to Iowa Great Lakes Okobojis' Devin Dirks. Congratulations to both players for a great season and best of luck on future endeavors.

Information for the 2023 season will be made available towards the end of this year for posts interested in sponsoring a team next year.



## Boys State and Nation Wrap Up

The American Legion of Iowa Boys State completed its session at Camp Dodge. Boys State is proud of the delegates that participated and finished the session. While all delegates should be listed, Boys State would like to recognize the following individuals on their selections and offices:

- Destiny Adams of Sioux City was selected as Boys State Governor.
- Shay Doyle of Waverly was selected as the Outstanding Citizen.
- Evan Janzen of Rock Valley was selected as Boys State Lt. Governor.
- Elliot Nelson of Oskaloosa was selected to represent Iowa as Senator at Boys Nation.
- York Meggison of Grimes was selected to represent Iowa as Senator at Boys Nation and was selected as Iowa's Samsung Finalist.

Boys State looks forward to next year. To all the American Legion Post Adjutants, please be on the lookout for information regarding the 2023 session. There are some major changes to how Boys State will run its database, so Post Reservations and Delegate Registrations will look a little different. All will still be required to be completed online, however, it will look a little different.

The changes will allow posts to view more information regarding their delegate registrations. Also new will be how billing is done. Posts will have the option to be billed from the software once they have secured delegates. This will help reduce the time and costs involved with issuing refunds for unfulfilled reservations.

Department Headquarters will begin to take post reservations for the 2023 American Legion of Iowa Boys State Program soon. The dates next year have been set for Sunday, June 11 - Friday, June 16, 2023. Posts will need to make a post reservation online. Each Post Adjutant will receive information regarding the Post Reservation and Delegate Registration processes along with some changes. Please do not disregard this letter and information as it may delay your process. If your post does not have a computer, find someone who does and ask them to help.

As a reminder, The Boys State Board of Directors voted to eliminate two different prices for Boys State. Like the 2022 session, Post Reservations have a flat fee of \$250 per delegate regardless of date.

### TIMETABLE AND DEADLINES

October 15, 2022 – Post Reservations open. A Post Chairman's Guide will be made available online to guide you through the candidate selection process.

January 15, 2023 – Online only Delegate Registration opens. Instructions for candidates to register were provided to posts via email after they completed their online Post Reservation. Samsung Scholarship Applications will be made available through the National website once available.

April 1, 2023 - Post Refund Request Deadline - Requests must be completed online at [www.ialegion.org/refunds](http://www.ialegion.org/refunds) no later than this date.

April 1, 2023 - Delegate Registration Cut Off – This is the LAST day for candidates to register. No exceptions will be made for post or candidate negligence.

March-May 2023 - District Orientations will take place (see Department website or your district's chairman for more details).

June 11-16, 2023 - The American Legion Boys State Program held at Camp Dodge in Johnston, Iowa.

Any further inquiries may be directed to your District Chairman who can be found online at [www.ialegion.org/boysstate](http://www.ialegion.org/boysstate).





**Scott Kvammen accepting the Legionnaire of the Year  
plaque from Commander Bob Waugh (R) and Wendy Riggle (L)**



## 2022 Iowa Legionnaire of the Year

The Art McLaughlin Legionnaire of the Year award was presented to Scott A. Kvammen of Council Bluffs, Iowa. Mr. Kvammen is a member of American Legion Post #2 in Council Bluffs. Mr. Kvammen earned his membership through his service in the United States Navy.

As a Legionnaire, Son, and Rider, Mr. Kvammen is very busy jumping in where help is needed. You may find him involved with post programs, fundraising, and membership. You may also find him physically making repairs and modifications to or in the post home.

The Art McLaughlin Legionnaire of the Year goes to those Legionnaires who demonstrate service as a "Blue Cap" within their post and their community. Congratulations to Heath Stolee and American Legion Post #317 for this award. Thank you, Heath, for exemplifying the spirit of Art McLaughlin and the American Legion.

## Firefighter & Law Enforcement Officer of the Year

The American Legion of Iowa will give its Department Firefighter and Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award to those who have exceeded the requirements expected of their position and have shown a distinct pattern of community service and professional achievement. The awards, which consider heroic acts, will be given annually at the Legion's Department Convention.



Fire departments and law enforcement agencies are encouraged to submit nominations to the Department National Affairs Committee. Applications must be received by November 30. The Department winner nomination packet will be forwarded to national for consideration for the National Firefighter and Law Enforcement Officer of the Year award, which is presented annually at the Legion's National Convention.

Firefighter nominees must be active firefighters and U.S. citizens. Emergency medical technicians (EMTs) are eligible only if they are certified firefighters.

Law enforcement nominees must be assigned to or fully recognized by municipal, county, district, or state police; highway patrol; sheriff's office, or as a sworn federal law enforcement officer (FBI, Secret Service agent, U.S. Marshal, National Park Police, U.S. Capitol Police, etc.) Military police officers or investigators are eligible if they are state law enforcement certified.

All nominees must also reside and be assigned within the Department of Iowa.

Nominations must be received by Department Headquarters no later than November 30th to be considered.

Nomination forms can be downloaded from our website: [www.ialegion.org/firefighter](http://www.ialegion.org/firefighter) or [www.ialegion.org/lawenforcement](http://www.ialegion.org/lawenforcement).

Forms can be emailed to [programs@ialegion.org](mailto:programs@ialegion.org) or mailed to The American Legion of Iowa, Attn: Programs, 720 Lyon Street, Des Moines, IA 50309.



## 2022-2023 Flag Essay Contest

### General Information

The purpose of The American Legion of Iowa Essay Contest is to develop a deeper knowledge and appreciation for the United States Flag on the part of elementary-level students. Other objectives of the contest include the ability to gain knowledge of flag etiquette and respect for the flag.

### Awards:

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

### Contests:

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

1. Individual Legion Posts will forward one winning entry (please retain a copy) to their District Children and Youth Chairperson, with a signed Participation Application, postmarked by January 5th of the current program year. If the 5th falls on a weekend, then postmarked by the next business day.
2. District entries will be judged by the respective District Children and Youth Chairperson, and sent to Department Headquarters, postmarked by January 22nd of the current program year. If the 22nd falls on a weekend, then postmarked by the next business day.
3. Department Children and Youth Committee will judge the nine District entries at Mid-Winter Conference, immediately following the Americanism meeting.

### Essay:

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

### Eligibility:

Participants shall be citizens of or lawful permanent residents of the United States. All contestants must be students enrolled in the fifth grade in a public, parochial, military, private, or state-accredited home school.

For more information go to: [www.ialegion.org/flag-essay](http://www.ialegion.org/flag-essay).



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POST EVERLASTING  
05012022-07312022

**SPENCER #1**  
ROBERT H BLACK  
VERNON A MICKELSON  
CURTIS L BROWNMILLER  
**COUNCIL BLUFFS #2**  
LOUIE J CAPARELLI  
DAVID C STEPPUHN  
**OTTUMWA #3**  
RICHARD K CROWE  
JACK D PARSONS  
FRED C GEMOULES  
**DUBUQUE #6**  
MERLIN N REUTER  
KIRK W WILLIAMS  
TED LIGHTCAP  
DONALD L STOEWER  
JOHN A SCANNELL  
**CARROLL #7**  
HOWARD DREES  
**DENISON #8**  
GORDON HALVERSON  
MERLIN F HERRIG  
RICHARD K HULL  
**ANAMOSA #13**  
LAWRENCE A SCHWERS  
**SWEA CITY #14**  
MAXINE G BRONES  
**WEST UNION #15**  
DUANE A JELLINGS  
**IOWA CITY #17**  
WILLIAM C CALLEN  
CARL T NORRIS SR  
**POCAHONTAS #18**  
LEONE H HUDEK  
JAY A MILLER  
**SIGOURNEY #19**  
FLOYD STRUPP  
**DAVENPORT #26**  
JOSEPH J VERRE  
RICHARD L GOBIN  
THOMAS J QUINLAN JR  
**MUSCATINE #27**  
LARRY D MARTIN  
RICHARD MEYER  
ROGER D PHILLIPS  
BILLIE D JAMES  
HARRISON L TERRY  
**WASHINGTON #29**  
MICHAEL E WORLEY  
ROBERT P PIERCE  
**INDEPENDENCE #30**  
WESLEY M PENTECOST  
**RUTHVEN #33**  
ROBERT G JONES  
WAYNE T INGRAM  
**OSKALOOSA #34**  
LESLIE KRUSEMARK  
JACK P BOWEN  
DANIEL W KALBACH  
LAWRENCE M MITRISIN  
RONALD F MORROW  
KENNETH E PUGH  
DALE I VELDHUIZEN  
JACK B VANSKIKE  
BOB L CARTER  
TOM EVANS  
ALVA L SHERADEN  
**AMES #37**  
AUGUST E STAEBLER  
HARLAN H BAKER  
MICHAEL L HAMMON  
**NEW HAMPTON #38**  
LEE A SCHISSEL  
**KEOKUK #41**  
CHARLES I DANIELSON  
ROGER D KOKEMULLER  
JAMES E WALTER  
**ANKENY #42**  
RAYMOND M MUR  
**MARSHALLTOWN #46**  
VERLYN W BAER

DANIEL L MCNARY  
**FAIRFIELD #47**  
WILLIAM R LUZADDER  
IRA W MILLER  
**BURLINGTON #52**  
FRANK H NIEHAUS  
**GRINNELL #53**  
DAVE ABARR  
JERRY L BARNS  
JAMES P COLLUM  
FRED JOHNSON  
DONALD BARD  
**VICTOR #54**  
CLARK R FELLER  
RUDY L HOFFA  
RAYMOND C GENSLEY  
**BOONE #56**  
ROBERT J MORITZ  
THOMAS K ROSE  
**VINTON #57**  
RALPH A RICHARDSON  
RICHARD C BRIDGE  
JAMES D KIRK  
**SIOUX CITY #64**  
JAMES A SHAY  
RODNEY MOORE  
ROBERT A GWIN  
**OSCEOLA #69**  
GERALD DEWITT  
KEITH DEBERG  
**TAMA #73**  
RONALD R WEIR  
**MAQUOKETA #75**  
DAVID FELDERMAN  
**MARENGO #76**  
DWIGHT E FELLING  
GERHARD O HINRICHS  
WILLIAM H KURTH  
HERBERT N MILLER  
RICHARD J MOUCHKA  
VERNON K SHERMAN  
CHARLES E MERRITT  
**CORRECTIONVILLE #79**  
JAMES A ANDERSON  
**SHENANDOAH #88**  
H R FISHBAUGH  
JOHN B WEAVER  
CARL W DAVIS  
JAMES W POLSLEY  
LEROY SPEARS  
FRANKLIN W MANES  
**PELLA #89**  
WILBUR I NEWENDORP  
BURTON D RANKIN  
**ALGONA #90**  
JOHN D DIEKMANN  
HOWARD D OMDAHL  
**ESTHERVILLE #91**  
ALBERT P SWARTZ  
**SALEM #94**  
NATHAN J FETTERMAN  
**CLARINDA #98**  
LYLE EDEN  
CHARLES J KEPPARD  
**COLUMBUS JCT #100**  
GEORGE GERST JR  
SHARON E BOYD  
**MASON CITY #101**  
TED R ENABNIT  
EUGENE G SMITH  
WALTER SCHROEDER  
**ROCK RAPIDS #103**  
HENRY BOEVE  
**PLEASANTVILLE #108**  
RICHARD D MESECHER  
ALAN T VANDERLINDEN  
**LISBON #109**  
IVOR B LORD  
ROBERT F WOLFE  
**NEWTON #111**  
FREDERICK L DIMON  
VERLE KOOISTRA  
FRANCIS W SNOOK  
ROD VANDUSSELDORP

RICHARD W MEYER  
QUENTIN A DEVORE  
THOMAS D GULLION  
CARL W MCGEE  
RUSSEL G NORCROSS  
JERRY KINGERY  
JERRY BUTLER  
SCOTT J MCANALLY  
**TIPTON #123**  
GORDON R ESBECK  
**GUTHRIE CNTR #124**  
JEFFREY J MORGAN  
RONALD G MOORE  
HOWARD A WINTERS  
ERVIN KOEPPE  
**MERRILL #125**  
LARRY LUFT  
**GLADBROOK #127**  
RICHARD RAUM  
**SIDNEY #128**  
JOHN C COWDEN  
GARY CAMPIN  
**ONAWA #129**  
JERRY W BELLIS  
DWIGHT KOSTER  
**FT DODGE #130**  
THOMAS E ESTLUND  
MICHAEL HANRAHAN  
**MANILLA #132**  
JIM BENNING  
**LAKE VIEW #133**  
JOHN C PAULSEN  
JAMES P STODDEN  
**CRESCO #135**  
CRAIG MORRISON  
ALVIN SKODA  
ALVIN SOMMER  
THOMAS RYAN  
ROBERT FITZGERALD  
**ALBIA #136**  
GERALD D ANDERSON  
**DYERSVILLE #137**  
ALVIN A HERMSEN  
**WATERLOO #138**  
RICHARD C ANDERSON  
E K CROSS  
TIM CONDON  
**TRAER #142**  
WILFRED F YUSKA  
GLEN W GASTON  
WILLARD F HALDY  
ERVIN J HANUS  
PAUL A HULME  
JOHN KVIDERA  
KEN ADOLPHS  
MARK T LARSON  
**STUART #146**  
DARELL L CHRISTENSEN  
**HARLAN #150**  
BYRON CHRISTENSEN  
**WEST BEND #151**  
ROBERT G THUL  
**SUTHERLAND #152**  
JOHN L LEONARD  
LINDEL L LEONARD  
JAMES E JOHANNSEN  
**WOODBURN #157**  
JOHN FRIZZELL  
**DELHI #160**  
TERRY SNYDER  
**INDIANOLA #165**  
DEWEY J MCKEE  
**MT AYR #172**  
RICHARD L REYNOLDS  
GENE L SICKELS  
LEROY TRIMBLE  
**WAVERLY #176**  
CLARENCE E DIEKMAN  
**ELDORA #182**  
DONALD L HUMRICHOUSE  
**WINTERSET #184**  
KENNETH BROKAW  
**IA FALLS #188**  
MARVIN E GOODKNIGHT

**CLINTON #190**  
LEO J COZZOLINO  
JOCK HENDRICKS  
EARL SPENCER  
**WEBSTER CITY #191**  
PAUL MICKELSON  
TOM BIGGS  
**WESTSIDE #196**  
JOSEPH WHITE  
ROBERT L PAEPER  
**CHURDAN #198**  
CALVIN C JUERGENSEN  
**SIOUX CNTR #199**  
HOWARD L BRANDES  
HAROLD B VERMEER  
**ALTON #200**  
DONALD MINTEN  
ARNOLD M STREFF  
ALLEN J WILLETT  
DON ZENK  
DALE A MOUSEL  
**LA PORTE CITY #207**  
DARRYL E MCFARLAND  
RONALD P SMITH  
FRANCIS E CAROLAN  
**ANITA #210**  
GARY R NICHOLS  
WILLIAM O BRENTON  
DARREL E ANDERSEN  
MARY L PHILLIPS  
**CENTERVILLE #214**  
JOSEPH R STEELE  
**REMSEN #220**  
DONALD DELPERDANG  
**ELBERON #226**  
HERBERT A GETTLE  
**AVOCA #227**  
BERNIE E MANN  
BURL E SCOTT  
**WILLIAMSBURG #228**  
DUSTIN J KOBERLE  
**CHEROKEE #230**  
KARL KLUDAS  
**NORWAY #234**  
DWAIN O JORDT  
**DEWITT #238**  
CHARLES R KLEIBER  
DAN A ROE  
**SHELBY #240**  
RICHARD L BROCKMAN  
**LE MARS #241**  
HENRY R BADER JR  
JOHN HART  
CLAYTON HOLZMAN  
DAVID LANG  
**ACKLEY #252**  
DAVID ROELFS  
R M SWASAND  
**HAWARDEN #254**  
DENNIS SCHOENROCK  
**WYOMING #259**  
LEON F LANGE  
**SLATER #260**  
TERRY SLAWSON  
RICHARD D JOHNSON  
**REDFIELD #261**  
DENNIS THOMPSON  
**WALL LAKE #262**  
WILLIAM GEAKE  
**URBANA #264**  
MARION J VAUPEL  
CHARLES W TROUP  
**GREENFIELD #265**  
CURTIS E ESTELL  
**CALMAR #266**  
GEORGE R WILLIS  
**BELLEVUE #273**  
JOSEPH H KLEIN SR  
GARRY JORGENSEN  
DALE GEBER  
JAMES J CLOOS  
**DES MOINES #274**  
PERRY J CHAPIN

**SHEFFIELD #277**  
LEO B RENBERG  
**OSAGE #278**  
LARRY J SQUIER  
**WASHTA #283**  
ARNOLD DAWSON  
**BROOKLYN #294**  
GENE MORGAN  
**MARION #298**  
WAYNE EDDINS  
ROBERT W BERRIDGE  
ALBERT J HASS  
PAUL G VISLISEL  
JEROME F FRAKE  
RONALD B JORGENSEN  
LEON G MEHRING  
JOHN F SIEBENMANN  
ARLO GINTHER  
RAY D AIRY  
BILL J JAKUBOWSKY  
GARY D FRUMP  
ALLEN BROWN  
**MARQUETTE #305**  
JOHN E ELLIOTT  
**HUMESTON #306**  
AUSTIN Z SMITH  
**ODEBOLT #313**  
JAMES A SCOTT  
**BRITT #315**  
DONALD TEGTMEYER  
**KESWICK #319**  
JOE D AXMEAR  
**ROCK VALLEY #321**  
KEITH A POLLEMA  
LEONARD J VANDENBOSCH  
JOE BRYANT  
**OCHEYEDAN #326**  
RONALD W PETERSEN  
**NEOLA #330**  
LLOYD E BURKE JR  
**DYSART #335**  
LARRY L LORENZEN  
HERBERT HARK  
**MISSOURI VALLEY #337**  
JAMES C DINSMORE  
**LAMONT #346**  
JOHN E FEULNER  
**STANWOOD #348**  
CHAD FLORY  
GEORGE L WALLING  
**GRUNDY CNTR #349**  
DON W AMMERMAN  
**AINSWORTH #351**  
JAMES D STEPHENS  
**COGGON #362**  
GARY MILLARD  
E L KENDALL SR  
**LINN GROVE #367**  
CAROL D PETERSON  
**LAKE PARK #371**  
ROD GRAHAM  
**WALKER #376**  
ROBERT L TURKAL  
**HULL #380**  
ED SCHOLTEN  
**LOST NATION #381**  
MELVIN DUWA  
**MILFORD #384**  
GARY HALE  
MICHAEL L NOTEBOOM  
**ST OLAF #388**  
ROLAND DOERRING  
**SIOUX RAPIDS #394**  
STEVEN C WAGGONER  
SHERRILL V ADAMS  
**BONDURANT #396**  
RONALD C HICKS  
**QUIMBY #398**  
MICHAEL L MITCHELL  
**VAN METER #403**  
PAUL RICHIE  
**STANTON #406**  
ANTHONY J CLARK

**UNIONVILLE #407**  
JACKIE D HOPKINS  
**OLIN #412**  
BRUCE L CONWELL  
**LIVERMORE #415**  
JAMES L TERWILLIGER  
**WHITTEMORE #425**  
DELBERT WICHTENDAHL  
BRIAN HENRY  
**LACONA #426**  
CHARLES L JOHNSON  
LEO SEUFERER  
**WELLMAN #427**  
ROBERT HARTLEY  
**DURANT #430**  
ARNOLD W KEMPF  
**DOW CITY #444**  
ESTELLE J LEINEN  
**NEW SHARON #446**  
DAN PATTON  
**WHEATLAND #447**  
GERALD D COATES  
**GALVA #454**  
KENNETH RADKE  
GORDON L SORENSEN  
LESTER VOHS  
GENE YEAROUS  
**OLON #460**  
ROBERT MORRIS  
DAVID JOHNSON  
**OXFORD JCT #473**  
RICHARD L SAWYER  
DENNIS P TEYMER  
**MAPLETON #496**  
HERBERT HAHN  
DENNIS W LIVERMORE  
MELVIN SCHRADER  
**CASTANA #502**  
G DUANE FREDRICKSON  
**DOWS #523**  
KERMIT SANDERSFELD  
WENDELL D INGBRITSON  
**CASCADE #528**  
DARYL W TETTERTON  
GLYNN T NOONAN  
PAUL F NEIERS  
ROBERT B FARMER  
DAVID PHILLIPS  
DONALD SUPPLE  
**WALCOTT #548**  
LAVERNE A ARP  
**WINTHROP #560**  
GLEN F PECK  
**CLARE #570**  
DARREL ALBRECHT  
**FAIRFAX #572**  
WALTER C BEARY  
**STRATFORD #576**  
DEAN C AHRENS  
**WILTON #584**  
ROBERT E COSS  
**ELMA #597**  
NORBERT BURKE  
**PRESTON #602**  
WAYNE A NOLTING  
**BREDA #607**  
URBAN KOSTER  
**W DES MOINES #620**  
JOSEPH A FITZPATRICK  
RICHARD A HAMMEN  
**MELCHER #632**  
CRAIG E CLARK  
KEITH STULL  
ERIC A WARNER  
**ELDRIDGE #639**  
WILLIAM A SALADINO  
JOHN W MILLER  
ROY D GOODRICH  
**NEWBURG #640**  
MARK MCLAUGHLIN  
**HAZELTON #642**  
RALPH E KEPHART  
**OTO #651**  
LEONARD HANDKE

**DENVER #653**  
KYLE RUSK  
**FARLEY #656**  
JEROME I RITT  
EARL J GOERDT  
**DES MOINES #659**  
EARL BRIDGEWATER  
**URBANDALE #663**  
THOMAS J SHAFFER  
WILLIAM C LAWSON  
**SMITHLAND #666**  
VERNON HECK  
**WEST POINT #668**  
KENNETH A PANTHER  
HAROLD WELLMAN  
MARK H POLLPETER  
DALE WILSON  
VICTOR W CONRAD  
**SWISHER #671**  
JOHN D BLAHA  
JAMES B FITZPATRICK  
KENNETH C KITZMAN  
LEROY R KRUTZFIELD  
**MELROSE #685**  
JOSEPH MAHONEY  
DOUGLAS K MCLEY  
LEO R WARD  
**ARCADIA #694**  
LEONARD RIESSELMAN  
GERALD F BERG  
**MODALE #695**  
ROY H COOPER  
GARY L SHEARER  
**SIOUX CITY #697**  
IRVING E MOLSTAD  
JIM R GOLDEN  
**ALVORD #704**  
RICHARD LELOUX  
**BLUE GRASS #711**  
JIM M HARKSEN  
JOHN C FRANK  
DAVID D KOLLMAN  
**HARPERS FERRY #722**  
JAMES MCCORMICK  
**IOWA #729**  
ERNEST HANSON  
JIM MAHER  
ARTHUR R HUTCHENS  
JOSEPH H MARTIN  
JUNIOR MOELLER  
KENNETH GOOKIN  
KEITH A PALMER  
JAMES F KEPPLER  
RICHARD N TURNIPSEED  
ALFRED JANSSEN  
**DES MOINES #731**  
JIM E MURRELL  
**NORTH LIBERTY #1976**  
JIMMIE L THOMPSON

SQUADRON EVERLASTING

**COUNCIL BLUFFS #2**  
CHARLES K HILDRETH  
**MUSCATINE #27**  
GARY H MCDONALD  
**KEOKUK #41**  
JAMES B JAIRL  
**MT AYR #172**  
STEVE MITCHELL





## Iowa Lottery and The Legion

A portion of each dollar spent on Iowa Lottery tickets goes to help state causes that matter. One of the most important recipients of lottery proceeds is the Iowa Veterans Trust Fund. The lottery has raised nearly \$35 million for that cause so far. The lottery currently provides \$2.5 million per year.

The Iowa Veterans Trust fund is money that goes directly to help our state's veterans and their families in need. The application process starts at your local County Veterans Service Office. Applications are reviewed once a month by the Iowa Commission of Veterans Affairs. A decision is made at the time of the review.

The American Legion of Iowa was honored to join CEO of the Iowa Lottery, Matt Strawn, for some on-field presentations to recognize the Iowa Lottery for their significant contribution to Iowa's veterans.

On June 23, Department Vice Commander Dick Hogan represented the veterans' community at a Cedar Rapids Kernels game, and on July 17, Department Adjutant John Derner represented our veterans at the Iowa Cubs in Des Moines.



## 2022-2023 High School Oratorical Contest

The Oratorical Contest will be underway very soon comprising of Local, County, District, and Area Contests. The Department Finals will be held Sunday, February 12, 2023, in Des Moines during Mid-Winter Convention. The Department Finalist will advance to the National Contest on April 21-23, 2023. Each contest champion will have the opportunity to receive a scholarship.

Completion dates, hosts, dates, locations, times, and of course applications will be made available through the Department Website. For further information, please see your local post or District Chairman. Any further inquiries can be directed to the Department of Iowa Headquarters: [programs@ialegion.org](mailto:programs@ialegion.org) 1-800-365-8387 or visit [www.ialegion.org/oratorical](http://www.ialegion.org/oratorical).



## Membership Memos

Hello, dear followers of my column! It's practically fall, so it's time to enjoy some pumpkin spice flavors, Halloween décor, and more membership processing.

With fall, we also have some upcoming renewal printing cutoffs to be aware of. For example, September is the cutoff for the October renewal notices. That means that, if a member's payment isn't in the system by September 19th (say they pay September 20th), they'll receive the October notice (if the Post elected to receive that renewal). The cutoff is pretty early, due to the volume of renewal notices being printed. You can think of it as the letters waved to each other while going through the post office. If the Post is curious about any of those printing cutoff and renewal dates, they can be found in the Membership Processing Manual or the Adjutant's Manual.

Fall also means District Conferences! While they aren't conferences for membership, I thought I'd put in a quick reminder. They are great ways to get involved with your District and learn things, which could include stuff about membership. Plus, you might even see me! (I won't reveal here which conference or conferences I'm going to – you'll just have to go find out.)

Now, grab some good fall-flavored treats, collect some dues, and enjoy some fall weather. Until the next installment!

**Ann Haack**  
Membership Clerk



## From Your Membership Team

Good job with membership in 2022. We finished the year with 955 new members and 494 transfers from Department Post 729. This gives us a final number of 36,122 paid members, this allowed 36 posts to reach 105% and 80 posts finished the year at 100-104%.

The goal that National gave the Department of Iowa is 37,040, which is an increase of 918 members. If we work as a T.E.A.M. we can not only meet but exceed this goal. With an increase of 918 almost all Department Post will have at least 1 member and some of our Post will have 2,3 or 4 added to their Membership end goal.

Your membership team challenges the department of Iowa to reach 96% by December 31. Let's first focus on those we have (renewals) and gaining new members.

Did you know there are 104 PUFL members in Department post 729? We can look at those in January when it is harder to get out and get noticed.

Don't forget the National Vice Commanders Tour is 14-18 November 2022. We will inform District Commanders when visit details are finalized.

**Your Membership Team**  
**Brian D. Ring Sr, Chair**  
**Jennifer Rehbein, Vice Chair**



## The American Legion and The Iowa Speedway with IndyCar

To kick off the start of an incredibly busy weekend, the Legion Riders of Iowa escorted the Chip Ganassi race haulers to the Iowa Speedway from Williamsburg, IA. There were thirty riders that participated in the escort to the speedway. As we waited for the teams sponsored by the American Legion, two Iowa State Troopers joined in and assisted in the escort to the racetrack.

Our work at the speedway began on Friday at 11:30 am with Jimmie Johnson doing an interview at the booth. Jimmie was very appreciative of the support from the American Legion and is proud to be a part of the campaign for "Be the One". Our campaign "Be the One" is an initiative centered around raising awareness of veteran suicide. The mission behind the campaign is to be the "One" who is kind and caring enough to hopefully impact the lives of veterans and reduce the rate of veteran suicide.

Both Jimmie Johnson and Chip Ganassi plan to become members of the Sons of The American Legion and will receive their memberships at national convention.



While we were working the booth, we quickly realized we needed to change our approach because our booth was concealed behind the INDYCAR booths on either side of us. We sent volunteers up and down the concourse engaging with the race fans and handing out the cards with QR codes to scan and learn more about the American Legion. One major improvement we will utilize in



the future is understanding the layout of the track and selecting a more easily accessible area of the concourse.

In conclusion, the sponsoring of the car and the booth was incredibly successful in attracting new members, but most importantly drew attention to the organization and our mission.

**Dept. of Iowa Marketing Chair  
Darrin Alderson**



**Photo credits: Jimmie Johnson, The American Legion,  
Fermin T. Iturbide, Dept. Commander Randy Johnson,  
District Commander Amy Muse, Programs Director Ryan Kowlessar**