



THE AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF IOWA

IOWA LEGIONNAIRE &

Auxiliary Communiqué

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

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



Robert Hines

Oxford Junction Adjutant Honored

On July 9th, at the annual Department of Iowa American Legion Convention in Des Moines, Robert Hines was named as the Sons of The American Legion 2022 MEMBER OF THE YEAR for the Detachment of Iowa. Robert serves as both the Adjutant and Finance Officer for Wapsie Squadron 473, in Oxford Junction.

With a total of 151 Squadrons and over 4,800 members in Iowa, Robert was singled out for his efforts in making the Oxford Junction Squadron become a reality. He was cited for the immeasurable contributions he made in recruiting members and his amazing organizational skills to get the Squadron chartered by National Headquarters. In the nomination package for this coveted award, Squadron Advisor Bill Goodman stated "Simply put, I don't believe that we would have ever gotten the Squadron up and running, chartered, and functioning without his incredible foresight and persistent efforts. Always positive and upbeat, Robert is an astute individual who has a knack for detail in working on day-to-day issues, as well as focusing on the big picture. I am simply in awe of what he does on a consistent basis. In my 30-year military career and subsequent 18 years of work in the Federal Civil Service, he stands out as one of the most reliable individuals that I have ever encountered. Robert is the epitome of hard work and determination. The Oxford Junction American Legion Family would not be where it is today without the efforts put forth by this multi-talented individual."

Founded in 1932, the Sons of The American Legion (SAL) exists to honor the service and sacrifice of Legionnaires. Wapsie Squadron 473 was chartered on 20 November 2021.

SAL members include males of all ages whose parents, stepparents, or grandparents served in the U.S. military and were eligible for American Legion membership.

Although the "Sons" has its own membership, the organization is not a separate entity. Rather, the SAL is a program of The American Legion. Many Legionnaires hold dual membership in the SAL.

The Sons organization is divided into Detachments at the State



level and Squadrons at the local level. A Squadron pairs with a local American Legion Post; a Squadron's charter is contingent upon its parent Post's charter. However, Squadrons can determine the extent of their services to the community, state, and nation. They are permitted flexibility in planning programs and activities to meet their needs, but they must remember the SAL mission: to strengthen the four pillars of The American Legion. Therefore, Squadrons place an emphasis on preserving American traditions and values, improving the quality of life for our nation's children, caring for Veterans and their families, and teaching the fundamentals of good citizenship.

Since 1988, SAL has raised more than \$5.8 million for The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation. SAL members have volunteered over 500,000 hours at Veterans hospitals and have raised over \$1,000,000 for VA hospitals and VA homes. The Sons also support the Citizens Flag Alliance, a coalition dedicated to protecting the U.S. flag from desecration through a constitutional amendment.



NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT #27
WEBSTER CITY, IA

DEADLINES & DATES

- December 2**
Dept. Christmas Open House
- December 10**
Winter Boys State Meeting
- December 23-27**
Christmas Holiday
Dept. Offices Closed
- January 2, 2023**
New Year's Day
Dept. Offices Closed
- January 5**
Flag Essay entries due to District Chair
- January 7**
2nd District Oratorical Contest – DeWitt
- January 8**
4th District Oratorical Contest – Hawkeye
- January 8**
6th District Oratorical Contest
- January 8**
7th District Oratorical Contest
- January 15**
District Oratorical Contest Deadline
- January 16**
Spring District Conference Forms Due
- January 16**
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Dept. Offices Closed
- January 18**
Veterans Day at Iowa State Capitol
1007 E Grand Ave, Des Moines, IA 50319
- January 23**
Flag Essay District Finalists due to HQ
- January 30**
Val Likens Service Officer of the Year
Nominations Due
- February 9-12**
2022 Mid-Winter Conference
Airport Holiday Inn, Des Moines
- February 12**
Dept. Oratorical Finals
Airport Holiday Inn, Des Moines
- February 13**
Dept. Offices Closed
- February 15**
Spring Legionnaire Articles due
- February 20**
President's Day
Dept. Offices Closed
- March 1**
Eagle Scout & Adult Scouting
nominations due
- March 16**
JSSP Dept. Match Registration closes
- March 17**
American Legion Birthday 1919
- March 17**
St. Patrick's Day
- March 18**
Dept. JSSP Match
- March 20-24**
Camp Dodge- Miller Armory
- March 20-24**
Spring Membership Tour



The American Legion, Department of Iowa

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Website: www.ialegion.org
Phone: (800) 365-8387 • (515) 282-5068 • Fax: (515) 282-7583

American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Iowa

Website: www.iowaala.org
Phone: (515) 282-7987 • Fax: (515) 282-7583

Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Iowa

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Heather Owens, Shane Pankonen

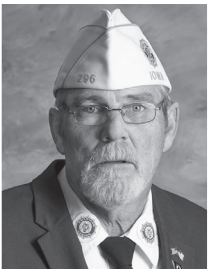
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Department Commander
Randy Johnson

Hello, Department of Iowa Legion Family,

We've been productive through the first quarter. Post-visits have gone very well and we're being well-received everywhere we go. I made as many District Conferences as I could. I won't forget the districts I couldn't attend. We'll try to make those up in the Spring. Our legislative agenda is moving forward. We've made two visits to the capital to talk with legislators and staff. Both visits went well as we outlined concerns with our Department Service Office, and the Veteran License Plate Fund and got updates on the Iowa Veterans Home. There are more visits planned to express concerns surrounding our veterans here in Iowa.

Our Be The One initiative will continue to be pushed at all levels of our organizations. According to the National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report, the number one issue facing the veteran community is suicide. Our National Commander agrees, and he has made it his mission to get the word out about the initiative. Be The One is designed to destigmatize asking for mental health support, provide peer-to-peer support and resources and educate everyone on how they can Be The One to help STOP suicide.

Legislative Issues: Be the One and Buddy Checks have gained attention from our legislators at both the state and national levels. After learning of The American Legion Be the One initiative, The Iowa Division of Behavioral and Disability Services, Dept of Health and Human Services invited us to be part of Governor Reynolds Challenge Team for suicide prevention quarterly meetings. This will enable us to be part of the statewide suicide prevention discussion and give us access to the National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report. The Iowa Dept of Health and Human Services has also shown interest in our Buddy Check Program – discussions are taking place right now on how to implement a similar program here in Iowa. We attended a suicide prevention roundtable with Congresswoman Miller-Meeks in October. This gave us the chance to let the Congresswoman know we wanted action on our Buddy Check program which currently sits in Washington DC. Miller-Meeks co-sponsored the Strong Veterans Act of 2022. It passed the House and was sent to the Senate in July. The Congresswoman and her staff will follow the Strong Veterans Act and keep us updated.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention membership. The success or failure to grow our memberships rests with our leadership. We'll get out of it what we put in it. It's our leadership that will ensure all our Legionnaires have the understanding that all of us need to be part of our membership growth, and without them we will fail. This message is best conveyed from the districts as your role to communicate is paramount in working in close liaison with both the Dept and your respective posts. It is important we set post, district, and department goals to ever have a shot at renewing all members, reinstating past members, and retaining members whom we worked so hard to get. Always remember we're a group of volunteers that rely on volunteer leaders to accomplish our goals. We can do all this if we work together on a day-to-day basis.

Here we are going into the fourth month of our membership year and before we know it, we'll be into the holidays. I wish all of you a safe and joyous holiday season. Remember the obvious. Family First!

Together Everybody Achieves More T.E.A.M.



Department Adjutant
John A. Derner

In The American Legion, we talk frequently about membership. During these discussions, we talk about targets, percentages, and other numbers. But membership is more than numbers. Membership has a heartbeat.

Each of us can remember why we joined The American Legion. More importantly, each of us knows why we have stayed in The American Legion. I think it is safe to assume that there are more veterans out there who share our values. Our potential members are there. We simply need to convince them to join our ranks.

In the past, I have stated that our greatest challenge is not membership. Our greatest challenge in The American Legion is developing leadership. I think that holds true today. If we are going to grow our organization, the focus cannot simply be on recruiting and retaining members. The real focus must be on developing leadership. And that leadership must be developed on the post level. The post determines the success or failure of our organization. Post-leaders must understand why growth is important, and they must believe we can achieve growth.

Developing leadership on the post level must be a top priority. To have a strong membership base, we must have strong posts for those members. The Department has a Post Revitalization program. Some districts also have their own revitalization teams. In addition, posts can use techniques used during a revitalization to make any post stronger.

As I mentioned earlier, membership has a heartbeat – and we cannot forget that. We cannot treat our members as numbers; we must treat them as people. We must listen to their concerns and needs. We must teach them about the organization. In other words, we must mentor.

As I reflect on my experiences with The American Legion, there are several people who continually come to mind. They come to mind not, for the positions or offices they have held. They come to mind because of the lessons that they have taught me.

I have had many mentors in The American Legion. Some I still speak with frequently, and some I have never met. I know that sounds strange, but I will explain.

At the post, county, district, department, and national levels, my mentors taught me lessons about The American Legion. And many of them passed on lessons learned from those who came before them. They have shared with me the stories of their mentors. Even after these members have gone on to Post Everlasting, they are still teaching lessons today.

In the past year I lost two good friends – and two of my biggest mentors. They taught me a lot through the years. I owe it to my friends to take the lessons they taught me and pass them on to others.

That is one of the reasons I take membership to heart. It is a way for us to pay tribute to all of the great leaders of this organization who came before us. They have handed the organization over to us and entrusted us to pass it on to the next generation stronger than it was given to us.

The American Legion is the greatest veterans' organization on the planet. For over a century we have been caring for our fellow veterans, providing opportunities for the youth of our country, ensuring the security of our nation, standing up for the values that have made our country the greatest nation on earth, and fulfilling needs in our local communities.

Now is the time to use our historic past to build on a promising future. It is a time to reflect on our achievements as an organization and invite others to join us as we move forward to make history again.

We can achieve the goals set before us. But more importantly, we can achieve the goal of developing the leadership that will lead us through the next century in The American Legion.



Department Service Officer Shane Pankonen

When to apply for VA Insurance
By: Shane Pankonen
Department Service Officer

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), offers an insurance program called, Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance (SDVI) if you currently meet the criteria. As of January 1, 2023, a new program of insurance is being implemented called "VA Life", also known as Veteran's Affairs Life Insurance. The VA Life Insurance will allow new applicants to apply as many veterans are unable to obtain life insurance due to their service-connected disabilities. The new VA Life Insurance will be available to all Veterans aged 80 and under who have a VA disability rating of 0% to 100% with no time

limit to apply.

Those veterans who are 81 years or older and who have applied for a New Service-Connected Disability can also apply within two years of receiving their rating decision.

Veterans do not have to meet any health requirements to obtain coverage and once coverage is effective, premiums will never increase. Veterans must wait two years from the effective date of the coverage for their beneficiary to receive the full value of the coverage upon their death.

*If you wish to receive SDVI, you must apply by December 31, 2022, before the new VA Life Insurance takes effect. *

SDVI policies are available in \$1,000 increments up to \$10,000. To be eligible, you must meet the following requirements: (1) you must have a military discharge other than dishonorable after April 25, 1951. (2) you must apply within 2 years of being granted a new

Service-Connected rating this does not apply to an increased Service-Connected condition. (3) you must be in good health, except for your Service-Connected disability.

The veteran may be eligible for the waiver of premiums, in which the VA will cover your monthly life insurance premium for the first \$10,000 of coverage. The requirements for the waiver are as follows: If the Veteran becomes totally disabled prior to their 65th birthday and has been considered totally disabled for 6 or more consecutive months.

If you have any questions regarding VA Insurance and premiums, please contact Government Life Insurance at 1-800-669-8477, or visit their website @www.insurance.va.gov. You may also contact The American Legion Service Office for any additional assistance with VA Benefits.

VA&R Includes Education and Scholarships

Often when we talk about the VA&R portion of the Foundation's grants, we automatically jump to health care and the rehabilitation of wounded and injured veterans. Education and preparing for the next career though are just as important. When that helmet comes off, something else must eventually take its place.

A big part of the Foundation's grants, over 25% in the next couple of years, go towards that education for our returning comrades and their families in the form of college scholarships. We know two things, first that the GI Bill as much as we try will not cover all the expenses of gaining an education. Second, we know from experience that if loans are used to cover the remaining expense, at times repaying those loans and be very difficult.

The Foundation in the 2021 and 2022 cycles funded scholarships at 17 colleges and universities across Iowa. These scholarships were awarded to veterans and family members of veterans educating themselves for their future life. Not every scholarship was used to gain a bachelor's degree. Many of them went to community colleges for specialized training in other fields. Each of the schools received \$2,000 to be used for these scholarships.

One of the recipients wrote a thank-you letter to the Foundation and to you as a donor to the Foundation. She wrote:

"My name is Tracey Hoover. I am a 30-year-old, non-traditional, and disabled female Veteran attending our local Scott Community College in the hopes of becoming a Registered Nurse, or RN. It should follow that I happily and proudly served many years as an E-5 sergeant in the role of a 68W, or medic, in the military before deciding to fully transition outward to civilian life. I just successfully finished my first year in nursing school with a solid 3.0 GPA. I wanted to take this time today to personally thank you for this awarded scholarship. Scholarships like these truly help me to become a successful student as I navigate my way through the academic world after having been through the professional side of the Army for over six years.

I am truly indebted to the foundation for its assistance. My earnest and only hopes to repay the foundation is through the hard work, determination, and grit I will put forth as I follow through with my educational plans and become a competent and skilled nurse: one that may very well one day respectfully and compassionately care for you or yours."

Helping veterans like Tracy establish themselves for a productive life is one of the most important functions of the Foundation and of the VA&R task of the Legion in general. Your donation is helping her transition to that productive life. Thank you for those donations in the past and others that we hope you will make in the future.

Longtime Foundation Board member and former Vice-President Mel Goslar passed away as this issue of the Legionnaire was going to press. Mell served many years representing the Eighth District on the Board. His wisdom helped the Board in many of our grant decisions, making sure that our grants would go to those who needed it most and whose work was aligned with the principles of the Foundation and The American Legion. This year's grant brochure is dedicated to him. He will be missed.

David K. Rehbein
President

Scouting Awards www.ialegon.org/scouting

The submission deadline to Department will be March 1, 2023, for Eagle Scout of the Year, Adult Boy Scout of the Year, and Adult Cub Scout of the Year. Eagle Scouts are required to complete the fillable version online, print it, and obtain proper signatures.

Nominations for Adult Scouts can be found on the Department website or are available by request from the Department office.

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

Americanism Commission

Wow, the days are going by at a good clip. To all District Americanism Chairman AND Legionnaires, deadlines are fast approaching for several contests. By now all oratorical contestants should have their speeches written, working on fine-tuning their speeches, and preparing for the Competition by the end of November. For Posts who have not been to your 5th-grade class teacher with the entry forms for the 5th-grade Flag Essay contest, you still have time however that deadline will soon be here, posts need to judge their entries at their December meeting. For multiple posts in one school district, each post should go into the school representing your post allowing more students the opportunity to be a first, second, or third place winner. The more winning places we have the better The American Legion looks in the eyes of the students and parents. We stand a better chance of more participants down the road for other programs. Posts need to have their winning entry to their District Children and Youth Chairman by January 5, 2023, for judging and District Children and Youth Chairman to Department Headquarters Program Person by January 22, 2023, for judging. We are all part of Commander Johnson's T.E.A.M.

James Kessler
Dept. Americanism Chairman

Pay Your Dues for a Chance to Win \$250

Pay your 2023 membership dues by December 31, 2022, and you will be entered into a drawing to win \$250.

On January 6, 2023, eight (8) \$250 winners will be drawn.

Some districts have also committed to matching the prize for winners from their districts, raising the prize to \$500.

CRITERIA:

- Have dues paid by 31 December 2022.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO WIN:

- Paid Up for Life (PUFL) members
- Members who have renewed online by December 31
- New members who have joined online by December 31
- Members who have paid the local post and the post has been transmitted to Department Headquarters before the deadline.

The American Legion is a veteran membership-driven volunteer organization led by volunteer leaders. That's exactly why "MEMBERSHIP MATTERS."

The Department of Iowa Membership Committee has set a Membership Goal of 96% by December 31, 2022. Help us achieve that goal by renewing or reinstating your membership today.





1st District Commander Gerald Bennett

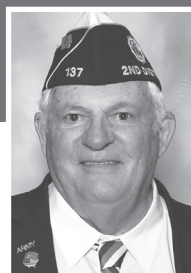
Fellow Legionnaires,

I hope everyone had an awesome Veterans Day! I know I did. My post, # 671 of Swisher, had the honor of being the Color Guard for a ceremony at one of our local Hy-Vee stores, where we were then treated to an awesome breakfast. Some

of them then went to my Alma Mater, Prairie High School, where we met up with some other Veterans for recognition and speakers. I must say my favorite part was walking through the Elementary school hallways, while the little kids sang to us.

1st District Fall Conference went well. I must say, we have some passionate members. One such member suggested that the Legion needs to change, to attract younger members. I disagree. That's just my opinion. I've been a Legionnaire for 33 consecutive years.

When I started, the WW II vets were the tenured members. Then, as time went on, it was the Korean vets, and now it's the Vietnam vets. During this time the Legion has changed. Not to accommodate the newer members, but because of them. I'm sure that's been the case since March 15th, 1919. As always membership is important. Be sure to talk to people, and always have an application, or two, in your vehicle. Don't forget to mention, all membership, and renewals, are eligible for the \$250 drawing!!



2nd District Commander Jerry Becker

Greetings to Second District Legion Family. A special thank you to all the posts who attended the Fall Conference in Center Point hosted by post 297. Thanks to post 297 for

hosting A job well done. I still need a post to hold the Fall Conference in October 2023, if interested please let me know.

If you are interested in viewing the Fall Conference, there is a video and minutes on the 2nd district website. Look under Ceremonies, Events, Meetings & Deadlines. Look under News around the district to view other events in the district.

If you have upcoming events or events, you have

already done and would like them to be put on the second district website let me know. Maybe this will give some other posts some new ideas. You can email them to beckerjerry8@gmail.com

I would like to congratulate Robert Hines from Squadron 473 Oxford Junction for being named SAL Detachment member of the year. Also, congratulations to Walcott Squadron 548 for receiving their charter in November. If any district two posts are interested in getting more information on the Sons of the American Legion Squadron let me know and I will get you in touch with district SAL advisor Dennis Kloser.

This a reminder that all members who have paid their dues by December 31, 2022, including PUFI members will be included in a drawing for 8 chances to receive \$250.00 from the Department.

The second district is giving you another chance to

win \$250.00 by drawing one name from all members from 2nd district who have paid their dues by December 31, 2022

Special thanks to all the posts of the 2nd district as of November 11, 2022, we were in second place with membership renewals at 69.11 % Keep up the good work and help us become first, the next goal is 75% by Pearl Harbor Day December 14, 2022.

Boys State registration is now open, your post adjutant should have received a letter explaining all the details.

My challenge to each of you this quarter is to make at least one buddy check. Get involved in American Legion "BE THE ONE".

The American Legion needs all our help in ending veteran suicide. Ask veterans how they are doing, listen when they need to talk, and reach out when they may be struggling.



3rd District Commander Jeff Large

Greetings Legionnaires-

First, let us welcome our newest charter to the Iowa American Legion, Charles Horton post 739 at the Iowa Veterans Home. They held their electrician of Officers in late October.

Commander Jack Studebecker, Vice commander Brent Beals, Adjutant Candace Cobbs, Sgt-at-Arms Terry McCullough, Chaplain John Bohren, Finance Laurel Degelau, and Service Officer Andrea Ferm. Post 739 was presenting its official charter at a ceremony on November 12th.

Members ensure your annual dues are making their way to your local adjutants. Members that are in good standing by the end of December will be entered into a \$250 drawing, any winner from the 3rd District will also receive a \$250 match from the district!

Mid-Winter Conference will be held in Des Moines IA, at the Holiday inn Des Moines -Airport/conf. center February 9-12. Members from all Posts are welcome to attend! This weekend has several quality workshops and offers networking of contacts and resources.

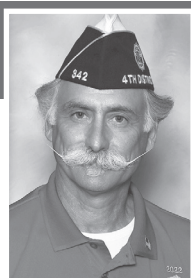
January 4, 2023, Flag Essays are due to District Chairman and the District Oratorical Deadline is January 15, 2023.

We have assisted in the consolidation of a handful of

Posts across the District this past year. The district was able to assist in the transfer of nearly every member to a nearby post of their choice.

Special Thank you to Dalton PHC located in Cedar Falls Iowa for all his company did this Veterans Day for several Posts in our district and others. This Veteran Owned company serviced the electrical, plumbing, and HVAC Systems. They serviced 22 VSOs from Cedar Falls to Cedar Rapids and everywhere in between. Dalton will be contributing \$22,000 this year to various VSOs to help raise awareness for Veteran's Mental Health.

Thank you for your continued support of the American Legion!



4th District Commander Fritz Kies

Hello again to all my fellow Legionnaires of Northeast Iowa. I would like to begin by thanking the Cresco Post 135 and Post Commander Dodd Franklin and Adjutant Cindy Yslas for hosting our

fall district conference in October, you did a great job, and the new expansion area looks good. Manchester Post 45 was the winner of the \$25 gas card for the

furthest traveled. The spring district conference is going to be in Osage, so mark your calendars now for April 15th, 2023.

Memberships! Don't wait to submit them, remember all paid memberships by the end of December will be entered into a drawing for one of eight \$250 awards. If that isn't incentive enough to get your dues paid, I don't know what it will take. Adjutants, please make sure you process them on time too! It takes a few days so don't delay, and as always, thank you for all the work you do.

Boys State is a great program, and everything is done online now, don't let that stop you from sending your young delegates to an experience of their lives next June.

One of my goals this year was to try and visit the three zones of the district for a training session to enable posts to learn the new MyLegion.org system. Instead, there are a series of videos you can watch or download to help you navigate and get the most out of it, just go to: vimeo.com/showcase/8339635.

Lastly, enjoy the holidays!



5th District Commander Samuel Blumer

Hello Fifth District Family.

As we come to the close of the year, make sure you have paid your dues. The department has a dues incentive, all names that have paid dues by December 31st will be

put into a drawing, and eight names will be drawn to receive \$250. On top of that, if it is a Fifth District Member, they will release another \$250 from the district. So, make sure you have your dues paid.

The VA passed the PACT ACT, which opens new pre-qualifications for VA compensation. Burn pit exposers, Camp Lejeune, and Agent Orange exposers all have fallen under the PACT ACT. The VA is encouraging claims to be filled as early as possible. If you feel you may qualify, please speak to your county, or state

service officers.

We had a great turnout for the Fall Conference and hope to have a better turnout at Spring Conference. Spring Conference will be held at Post 172 Mount Ayr on April 8th. Hope to see you there.

I want to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



6th District Commander Tim McLaughlin

Fellow Legionnaires and Legion family as I write this Veteran's Day has passed; we are moving into the Thanksgiving and Christmas season and as a Legion family we need to work together to make sure that all veterans have the help they need. We all should be doing buddy checks, checking on our fellow veterans, and listening to them. Too often as we start the holiday season we get so busy that we forget about others who may feel lost and alone and we can make them

feel so much better by letting them know we care.

We also have a lot of programs that need our attention, whether it be the oratorical contest boy state recruiting, or Eagle Scout of the year. I urge you to do your best to find the candidates for our Legion programs.

Mid-winter also provides us a great opportunity to develop and educate some of our younger members. With the training available, and the camaraderie of all the Legionnaires there we can begin to develop our new members and allow them to grow in knowledge about the whole Legion program. This will allow us to develop future leaders in each of our posts.

I would be remiss if I did not express my gratitude and the district's gratitude to those Legion members who spent so much effort on the revitalization effort for our district's 75 Legionnaires who were transferred to posts. Over 10 legionnaires worked tirelessly to contact over 1500 729 members and place them in local posts. This is very important because studies have shown that Legionnaires who are involved in a local post have a significantly better chance of staying with the Legion. Thanks, and gratitude also go out to post 731, the Hispanic post, for hosting the revitalization, not only did they provide the location but several of the members worked tirelessly contacting potential post members.



7th District Commander Amy Muse

Greetings!

Big "Thank You" to the newly revitalized Corning Post 117 and the City of Corning for hosting the District Fall Conference. Several Posts were presented awards and several other Posts in the District have "happy mail" as all have earned \$150.00 Level II Incentive Awards for getting more involved in their communities beyond Funeral Details.

The District membership votes each fall on donations to award and the District came through in a big way. I encourage all members to give when they can and that could be as simple as paying your dues on or before Veterans Day!

Two days ago, I was once again gobsmacked with the harsh reality of veteran suicide as a classmate from Griswold decided to take his last breath on Earth. I say once again because the sad reality is it isn't the first time. Please learn and explain the "Be the One" Campaign to your Post membership. Don't wait for someone from County or District to do it for you.

I know it can be daunting to call a total stranger, or maybe the "grumpy guy next door", but we need to get over being uncomfortable and start caring for one another.

If you are a County or Post that would like to consolidate, please reach out to me at 712-310-5598. Just as school districts have bonded together in SW Iowa, so must the 65 Legion Posts in the 7th (Pioneer) District.



8th District Commander Ken Fields

8th District Legionnaires,

Our comrade Melvin Lee Goslar passed away Monday, November 14, 2022. Melvin served in the United States Army from December 29, 1969, to December 17, 1973, and was in the country during the Vietnam War. He was an active member of the Homer Hall American Legion Post 66 of Charter Oak, Iowa. Melvin held offices with the 8th District American Legion including Commander, Vice

Commander, and Finance Officer. He also served on the American Legion National Security Committee and Iowa American Legion Foundation Board of Directions. We salute goodbye to our departed friend with great sorrow as he joins the Post Everlasting. Thank you, Mel, for your service and mentoring to members and comrades of the American Legion.

Children and Youth, it is time to collect 5th-grade flag essays for the Post level. Oratorical Contests for High Schoolers at your post must be held now and winners signed up for the 8th District Oratorical Contest in January

BE the ONE, to conduct Buddy Checks of Post members

that you haven't seen in a while.

BE the ONE, to invite a non-member veteran to a Post meeting.

BE the ONE, to assist a veteran in need, emotionally, physically, or spiritually.

BE the ONE, to hold a membership drive.

BE the ONE, to make a difference in your community, state, and nation.

Be the ONE.

Wishing all of you the best throughout the Holiday season. Let's make 2023 memorable in the 8th District.



9th District Commander Chris Weinreich

Fellow legionnaires, midterm elections, and Veterans Day are over. It is time to get membership done. Current numbers show we are building momentum! We need to keep that going by getting every post qualified for the drawing possible! As I have stated posts must have 100% of their members paid by December 31st to qualify for the \$250 drawing. As an additional incentive, Counties in the Ninth District

that achieve 100% will receive a check for \$200. Once the necessary business of membership is complete, we can continue to assist veterans. Promotion of Boy and Girls State, Fifth Grade Flag Essay, Oratorical, Educator & Firefighter of the Year. Consider making one or more of these programs Job One at your post. The Health Administration Committee will be visiting Sioux City and Omaha soon to conduct inspection surveys and build support for hospice, women's veterans' healthcare, mental health, and suicide prevention for starters. Zoom meetings with stakeholders will help ensure the dissemination of changes and updates. Iowa Legion Veterans Benefits Administrators have

ensured that over \$276,043,893.63 has gone to Iowa Veterans! This amounts to an average monthly payment of \$1,319.00 to veterans! The number of new award cases by our Iowa American Legion VBA representatives is ten times that of the other seven VSOs combined! Our Department Marketing Commission is building relationships with numerous Iowa-based companies and corporations. Stay tuned for MUCH more on this initiative! Until next time, be well, share your story, and "Be the One" that makes a difference!

Build for Tomorrow-

It began Yesterday. Get the communities to be better acquainted with the Sons of the American Legion. Attending the Welcome Home for the return of Honor Flight at the Eastern Iowa Airport, wearing my SAL jacket and Detachment cover. I was asked questions about service and what a Detachment is. The community still doesn't know much about what the SAL is about. Therefore, we need to get out there, we are a contributing factor for Veterans, children, and the community.

We need to get the youth involved in Legion programs or invent one that gets them, and their family involved with the Legion Family.

Attending the Welcome Home for Honor Flight for the first time I was in awe of the people that attend it. Hundreds of people lined up on each side starting with many American flags. People shaking their hands thanking them for their service. Their smiles and some tears make it all worthwhile. And the Vietnam Veterans getting the Welcome Home they deserved.

Need 4 more new Squadrons this year and get your membership dues in and keep getting new members.

Still looking for a Detachment Adjutant Assistant. Contact Brian Kessler Detachment Adjutant.

Educator of the Year

www.ialeion.org/educator

One of the goals of The American Legion has always been to work in cooperation with schools who assist veterans, their families, and local communities.

Some educators have gone above the call of duty and promoted the aims and purposes of The American Legion of Iowa.

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

The Department of Iowa developed a state program for recognizing educators in Iowa. Nomination brochures are available on our website at www.ialeion.org/educator.

Nominations must be approved by your district and received no later than March 31, 2023.

The PACT Act and your VA benefits

The PACT Act is a new law that expands VA health care and benefits for Veterans exposed to burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxic substances.

The PACT Act adds to the list of health conditions that we assume (or “presume”) are caused by exposure to these substances. This law helps us provide generations of Veterans—and their survivors—with the care and benefits they’ve earned and deserve.

This page will help answer your questions about what the PACT Act means for you or your loved ones. You can also call us at 800-698-2411 (TTY: 711). And you can file a claim for PACT Act-related disability compensation or apply for VA health care now.

What’s the PACT Act and how will it affect my VA benefits and care?

The PACT Act is perhaps the largest health care and benefits expansion in VA history. The full name of the law is The Sergeant First Class (SFC) Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act.

The PACT Act will bring these changes:

- Expands and extends eligibility for VA health care for Veterans with toxic exposures and Veterans of the Vietnam, Gulf War, and post-9/11 eras
- Adds 20+ more presumptive conditions for burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxic exposures
- Adds more presumptive-exposure locations for Agent Orange and radiation
- Requires VA to provide a toxic exposure screening to every Veteran enrolled in VA healthcare
- Helps us improve research, staff education, and treatment related to toxic exposures

If you’re a Veteran or survivor, you can file claims now to apply for PACT Act-related benefits.

What does it mean to have a presumptive condition for toxic exposure?

To get a VA disability rating, your disability must connect to your military service. For many health conditions, you need to prove that your service caused your condition.

But for some conditions, we automatically assume (or “presume”) that your service caused your condition. We call these “presumptive conditions.”

We consider a condition presumptive when it’s established by law or regulation.

If you have a presumptive condition, you don’t need to prove that your service caused the condition. You only need to meet the service requirements for the presumption.

Background

The Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act of 2022 – better known as the PACT Act, signed into law Aug. 10, 2022 – opens the door for certain individuals to file lawsuits and collect damages from the federal government due to their exposure to contaminated water on the Marine Corps base (also known as the Camp Lejeune Justice Act (CLJA)). Qualified claimants had to have served/lived at least 30 days at Camp Lejeune, N.C., between Aug. 1, 1953, and Dec. 31, 1987.

Several law firms, through national ad campaigns, are urging veterans and families to sue the federal government for toxic water exposure at Camp Lejeune, N.C. What these law firms are NOT telling our veterans is that the CLJA includes an offset clause. These law firms appear to be ignoring the offset provision because they do not understand VA disability law and have no interest in protecting veterans. This is why veterans should make informed decisions on which “lane” to use in obtaining benefits.

Any award made to an individual, or legal representative of an individual, under this section shall be offset by the amount of any disability award, payment, or benefit provided to the individual, or legal representative—

(A) under—

(i) any program under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs;

(ii) the Medicare program under title XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.); or

(iii) the Medicaid program under title XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.); and

(B) in connection with health care or a disability relating to exposure to the water at Camp Lejeune.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

To provide assistance for veterans dealing with the Camp Lejeune water contamination litigation, the VA&R Commission recommended that The American Legion extend our agreement with Bergmann & Moore to help protect our members related to the Camp Lejeune Justice Act feeding frenzy.

In this matter, we respectfully request that you advise veterans and family members to:

1. Contact Bergmann & Moore to determine whether filing a lawsuit is in their best interest (Offset triage to prevent veterans from accepting one-time benefits to their detriment of greater VA benefits). The website www.camplejeunelitigationteam.com/al/ provides a secure online form for Legionnaires and their family members to explain their circumstances. The firm also has a 24-hour phone number – **800-898-9450** – for those who do not wish to use the web platform.

2. Bergmann & Moore is available to attend your Department’s upcoming conferences/meetings and to speak with your members AT NO COST. The POC is Liz Hartman and her contact is lhartman@vetlawyers.com or **(252) 497-7255**.

Since August of 2017, The American Legion has had a litigation and training relationship with the Bergmann & Moore Law Firm to provide training for thousands of American Legion service officers (more than 2,000 to date), and to represent Veterans who are appealing their VA disability benefits from the Board of Veterans’ Appeals to the US Court of Appeals for Veteran Claims. Over the past 5 years, they have assisted with 4,462 cases with an astonishing 99.7% win rate. For more background on B&M, please visit <https://www.vetlawyers.com/>

Festive greetings, everyone!

St. Nick will soon visit, so get those stockings ready by the fire. Or wall. Or wherever you hang the stockings each year.

In the membership world, members become delinquent if they aren’t paid by Dec. 31st. No one wants the ghost-of-membership-years-forgotten to stop by and say they’re late or they’ve missed a year, so hopefully everyone is getting their dues in.

If you’ve had the gift of a new member this year, that’s great! If they’re a brand-new member, their member ID will start with 35. If it’s a member that stopped paying for a few years but is coming back, you may still be able to use their old ID number. If that’s the case, as you enter membership into MyLegion, you should receive an error prompting you that someone else in the system matches the information you’ve entered. You can then use the provided ID and check the Global Member Search for some basic information.

If your new member is a transfer into your Post, that’s great, too! When processing the transfer, you can break down how to do it by whether they have paid or not. If they are already paid for the current year, you’ll want to complete a member data form and send it to Department (ex. Paid Up for Life member). If the member is paying you, you can process the transfer online (if you do membership online) by selecting the Add/Transfer Member button in the electronic transmittal. Otherwise, if you submit paperwork to Department to transfer and pay them for the current year, remember to submit a transmittal, check payment, two-part card from the blank cards received, and a member data form, if possible. It’s a lot, but it helps clarify what is happening, making membership processing easier.

2023 is going to be a great year. Happy new year to everyone, and hope to see you at Mid-Winter in February!

Ann Haack





WINTER 2022

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

DEPARTMENT OF IOWA

Auxiliary Communique

SERVING VETERANS, THEIR FAMILIES AND THEIR COMMUNITIES



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Auxiliary President Jayne Soppe

What an awesome fall we have had! Many Unit, County and District meetings. A big Thank You to the

many of our hard working Iowa members for doing a great job making the meetings fun and educational. Thank you all for the invites! I LOVE meeting old and making new friends among our Auxiliary members.

As I write this we just got home from Mission Training in Minneapolis and it was AWESOME! I'm sure those going to Indianapolis and other sites will have a great learning experience just as we did.

I hope you all celebrated Veterans Day by Thanking a Veteran for their service. I also hope you attended a Veterans Day program and maybe a lunch or dinner with fellow American Legion family members. Even Wheel of Fortune celebrated all week with Veterans as players. Our Mission is to keep the feeling of gratitude and respect for our Veterans alive all year long. Keeps the Positive American Attitude going at our meetings throughout the great state of IOWA! Share your sparkle and glow TOGETHER!

We are planning an exciting time for our Mid-Winter Conference so please plan on attending. We will have presentations, education and FUN for our Jr. and Sr. members and the whole American Legion Family. We will have poppy painting classes and a fun service project too. Plan on joining us- make your reservations NOW!

I attended the Quilt of Valor Retreat in October. The weather was beautiful as was the Quilted Steeple setting. The food was marvelous and the Quilters were amazing. You see, I don't sew, much less quilt. They took me under their wings and made sure I completed a quilt top that looks great and was sewn with love for our Veterans. There were 3 of us "first timers" and I think all of us will be back next year! These quilts truly are a labor of love and will keep our veterans warm and feeling that love when they are awarded to them.

I want to thank everyone for their invitations and generous donations to our projects as we continue working for our Veterans and their families in the New Year. As we all prepare to celebrate the Christmas Season of giving please remember the Veterans at the Iowa Veterans Home with a donation to them for gift cards. Send it to Dept. and they will pass them on so our Veterans there will have gifts for their families- please share some Holiday JOY with them. May you and yours have a safe, happy Holiday Season- Jayne



Auxiliary Vice President Mary Sypherd

Well Fall is over & Winter is just around the corner. I would like to thank Jayne for letting me ride

along with her to the fall conferences and to the district presidents who allowed me to attend their conferences and made me feel welcomed. It is always interesting to see how other districts conduct their meetings. I took away a few things that I'll be sharing in the future.

By this article membership turn in will have already happened and I hope everyone turned in lots of dues.

I am looking forward to Mid-Winter. I have always said it is a time to regroup and get motivated for the rest of the year. President Jayne has some changes in mind that I believe will be good motivators for our Juniors; to get them involved again and willing to continue serving our organization. So, I hope to see more members bring their juniors to join in the fun. She also has a few activities to make it a fun weekend.

With the holidays approaching I would like to wish all of you A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR! See you all in February.



Central Division **National Vice President** Ann Rehbein

Ann Rehbein was elected Central Division National Vice President at the National convention in Milwaukee, WI. She becomes the 13th Iowan to serve in that office.

She is eligible through the service of her father, John Grutsch; her brother, Mike Grutsch; her husband, David Rehbein; and her daughter, Jennifer Rehbein

Ann is a lifelong member of the American Legion Auxiliary and is a life member of Ames Unit 37, Ames, IA. She has served all levels of the organization and as Department President from 2004-05. She went on to serve on the National Executive Committee and was Chairman of many National Committees.

She is looking forward to visiting the 9 Departments in the Central Division as part of her duties as a Divisional Vice President and representing National President Vicki Koutz.



Auxiliary Junior President Sadie Breyfogle

To start off, I would like to say a big thank you to all of the districts that hosted me.

The hospitality and kindness received from everyone in attendance is very much appreciated. I loved learning about what each district is doing and, in turn, speaking about my projects. My projects this year are Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Awareness for Veterans, Military Personnel, and their caregivers, Flag Education, Junior Involvement, Cards for Veterans in Nursing Homes and Care Facilities, and Pop Tabs for the Ronald McDonald House.

22 is a very big number when it comes to the amount of veterans that die by suicide each day. Many people are suffering with a mental health challenge. These injuries that you cannot see are so important to be mindful of. Three things everyone should know that can tell if a loved one may be struggling with a mental health challenge are:

1. A major change from the person's normal way of thinking, feeling, or acting.
2. That change interfering with the person's ability to live their life.
3. The interference does not go away quickly and lasts longer than normal emotion or reactions would be expected.

If you know a veteran, call them. Ask them how their day is going and show them you care. Sometimes all anyone needs to know is that someone is thinking about them. Be the One to Save One Veteran. Mental health should not be a joke, it is a serious challenge. Stigma is what causes people to hesitate to get treatment. Let's help reduce that stigma.

My second project is based around the symbol of our great country. The American Flag stands for independence, valor, purity, and loyalty. What does our flag mean to you? Each person has their own explanation of what the flag represents to them. Think about this and discuss it with your family, a friend, your unit, etc.

At each district, I spoke about junior involvement. I kept referring to the American Legion Family as "OUR" organization. Each member is very important in keeping our cause alive and helping our organization grow. Be a leader. Leaders will take charge if something is not going as well, invite someone in, or go talk to someone sitting alone. They point out a problem and come up with a solution of how to fix it, they are reliable. A leader is not necessarily the person running a meeting or event. Everyone is capable of being a leader.

As I wrap this up, I want to remind everyone that you are important, and you are needed in this world. There is someone out there that cares for you. Thank you for taking time out of your day to read this. Keep doing great things. and Happy Holidays!

Poppy Pride day at mid-Winter

On Saturday, February 11, 2023, I am asking all American Legion Family members to wear your poppies and show your support. I would like to see everyone wearing poppies in support of our Veterans and our troops. You can wear as many as you would like, in any TASTEFUL manor. I will be taking pictures so show off your poppies. There may even be a few prizes for the person with the most poppies, and the most creative way to show off your poppy.





1st District President

Barbara Lastovka

I think the most important thing is being kind to others; together we will get the job done.

We had our 1st District Fall Conference in Swisher on October 8th at the

Legion Post 671. We had a great conference and a thank you to all that attended. Together we make it happen and that's how it is successful.

I did attend a few other District conferences with my husband since he is the Detachment Commander. We attended 8th District at Breda and 5th District at Ottumwa and thank you for making me feel welcome.

Still working on my project. It's Jr Camp and selling raffle tickets for a beautiful quilt. It would make a great Quilt of Valor for a Veteran.

1st District Spring Conference April 29, 2023, at Swisher.



2nd District President

Carol Mooney

Hello 2nd District Auxiliary,

I would like to send a BIG Thank you to all our units in the 2nd District as of this writing of the newsletter, we as a District have paid all our District & Dept Obligations.

I have gone to county meetings and learned a lot from those meetings and look forward to seeing you

all again soon. Our Fall conference in Center Point was a great success and had a great turnout and a great meal, Center Point Legion and Auxiliary did an awesome job, THANK YOU

This is a reminder that Mid-winter is soon approaching if you have not made your reservations yet, please do so as the hotel does fill up fast. The dates are February 10-12, 2023 at the Des Moines Airport, if you have Juniors in your unit ask that they join us for the weekend it sounds like there will be a lot of activities for them that weekend

Crystal did inform us of the new changes to Girls State and to register under CampWise.

We look forward to our Spring Conference that will be held in Farley, IA (close to home yea).

My last thought as I am writing this, I am looking at the card that President Jayne handed out at the fall conference BE THE ONE. Ask Listen and reach out to a Veteran at your job, and in your community. We all need that help at some point in our lives. So, you, BE THE ONE.



3rd District President

Sandy Scallon

Greetings Third District American Legion Auxiliary

We had an awesome Third District Conference on October 22, 2022, with 44 members and five guest present. It was held in Reinbeck in

their Legion building.

Elaine Brookins, Department Membership, and Jolene Debnaw, District Membership, talked about "PUFL" (Paid Up for Life) membership. It will now take \$26.00 to cover state/district dues, so be prepared for this increase in your unit dues.

Special guest Jayne Soppe, Department President, introduced her theme, 'TOGETHER'. She also discussed membership and "every piece fits together". Jayne encouraged communication amongst all members. Stacy Bane talked about how the Iowa Veterans Home is starting to open and masks are no longer needed for volunteers. The Christmas gift shop needs donations. They are asking for \$25 gift cards and clothing sizes 4XL and 5XL. If you can help them out it would be appreciated.

My projects this year include raising funds for Retrieving Freedom in Waverly and Miracles in Motion in Swisher. I appreciate any donations to these wonderful organizations who help our Veterans.

Important dates to remember:

1. Mid-Winter Conference February 10 – 12
2. Third District Conference March 11 (tentative)

It was a great conference and once again I would like to thank Brenda Davis and the Reinbeck American Legion Auxiliary for their hospitality.

What a wonderful experience I have had visiting different county conferences and unit meetings. There will be more in the Third District Clipper.

If you would like to contact me, please feel free to do so at alathirddistrict@ialegion.org or 515-689-6282.

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

Happy Holidays & God Bless



4th District President

Dee Onken

Hello 4th District Auxiliary Family,

I would like to thank Cresco Post 135 & Unit for hosting our District Fall Conference on October 15th plus all members for their part to

make it successful! We enjoyed having Department President Jayne, Exec. Director Crystal Wright, & Department Membership Elaine Brookins bringing great information. Department Chaplain Connie Wagner and Department Americanism Chair also joined us.

Our 4th District Junior President, Alyssa Sparrgrove, shared her Junior Camp experience. Her projects are encouraging others to get more juniors involved in their units supporting our veterans and a great project to clean cemetery stones of veterans starting with her Great, Great, Great, Great Grandpa's stone.

I've attended County meetings to learn the great things they do for veterans and their communities. A project for units to do is to provide funds for IVH residents' gift cards.

Calendar Get membership dues sent to Dept. NOW! Make the 4th district soar high! -- Make sure ALL Dept., District & County Obligations are paid. -- Hope all observed Veterans Day. -- Junior Camp to be held

June 4-9th, 2023. -- Girls State is June 18-23, 2023, and unit registrations are due Dec. 31, 2022. -- Mid-Winter is Feb. 9-12, 2023, at Airport Holiday Inn, Des Moines, please make your reservations.

Our 4th District Spring Conference will be held in Osage, IA. We will be holding a Silent Auction with funds going to Department President Jayne's projects!

Happy & Safe Holidays to all and looking forward to working "together" in 2023!

Any questions please email me at alafourthdistrict@ialegion.org.



5th District President

Jackie Bolen

Saturday, October 15th, the fifth district held its fall conference. Post/Unit #3 in Ottumwa did a great job preparing for the day.

Very informative reports were

given. For anyone unable to attend, you can read some of these reports in the upcoming Fifth District Broadcaster.

A nominating committee was established for anyone interested in becoming a district officer. You can email your nominations to Teran Sorensen (hastings822@gmail.com), Linda Neels (lineels@zumatel.net), or Randi Gist (rgist@twincedarscds.org)

They stressed getting membership dues in, obligations are taken care of and the importance of letting the public know what units are doing.

Lots of information was available to take home and share with their members.

Mark your calendars now for their spring conference to be held on April 8th in Mount Ayr.

Simplify and solidify. Keep recruiting helpful hearts.



Membership Membership Membership!

We want your membership. Well, we do but we also want you and your family to be so active in our organization when they hear a unit/Post name they'll say; Yaa the Lancaster's are there! Say it loud and Proud! This is the American Legion Family! And we want you to be a part of it! Those memberships are coming in faster now, let's not slow down. We are currently around 60% for the state. If we work Together, we can help our family Grow! Congratulations to those units who have hit 100% already! Whatever you do, Don't Hold Memberships!!! We cannot say that enough. Don't want to send it in all the time? get Full access to ALAMIS. Click and done! Questions on any of this please feel free to reach out to Me or my team. Don't forget about the 10 Plus 3 in 2023, Missing Piece and Missing Together awards.

Rosemary Lancaster, Dept Membership Chair



6th District President
Mary Jo McLaughlin

Season's Greetings members

I'd like to thank each of you for all that you have already done this year in your units and the District. You helped make our conference

successful, had great County meetings, worked hours at the Stand Down in Des Moines, volunteered many hours at the Iowa Veterans Home, and many hours for our veterans and youth in your communities.

Units are keeping their members' enthusiasm growing strong. Minburn Unit #99 has helped the fire department, the library, and veteran's families, among many other activities that have gained them, new members! Urbandale Unit #663 has held a breakfast for the Girls and Boys State citizens and already brought in enough funds to send new citizens next year. Cumming Unit #562 was surprised when their Legion matched their funds for a total of \$600 to purchase clothing and supplies for the VA Community Resource and Referral Center. Nevada Unit #48 is having a Cookie Walk and invited other units in Story

County to participate in baking and helping. All funds received will go toward purchasing a VibroAcoustic Chair for the Iowa Veterans Home. When we work together we can do more!

The more we do in our communities the more people will see us and want to join us. You can be the one to ask them! Be excited to be a member, enjoy helping others and your unit will grow. May God Bless each of you with a happy and successful year.

Mary Jo McLaughlin



7th District President
Patti Rolf

Greeting from 7th District! The fall has been extremely busy with conferences, parades and Veteran's Day activities. Our units are having dinners, Veteran's Day programs at

the local school, presenting Quilts of Valor and many other project. Our fall conference was a great day

with members sharing local projects and meeting new friends. Miles Brown, Omaha Fisher House, was our guest and was impressed with the compassionate and our caring members and all the various activities we participate in. Miles shared the eligibility to stay and mentioned the house is ran strictly by donations. A silent auction was held, for my project, with all proceeds to support the Fisher House.

As the holidays approach, please remember to keep our veteran's welfare in mind. Many communities

have an adopt a grandparent program and there are probably some veterans, who would like to be remembered. Mailing a Christmas card or fresh baked cookies, dropped off at their house, would surely bring a smile to their face. Please turn in membership as soon as you receive it! Spring conference is in the planning and more details will be released soon. I appreciate all of 7th District members and wish you a happy and healthy New Year!



8th District President
Janice Dornath

Greetings from the 8th District.

We have had a busy time since the last article. The Fall conference was held in Brede, and it was a good day. We had some poppy hats and poppy centerpieces at this conference and

hopefully, they will be seen in Mid-winter. We also donated to the Department Pres. project. I would like to say a big thank you to the Brede Post for a job well done.

I was invited to visit the Kossuth County meeting and enjoyed the evening. They are one busy group of ladies. They have been busy making quilts and helping in the community.

I was invited to visit Boone Unit, which is another group of busy ladies. They are doing a trick and truck and they are collecting items for the home in Marshalltown. It was

another enjoyable evening which ended with making pumpkins.

Some dates to remember are Mid-Winter in Des Moines on Feb. 10-12, March 25 8th District Spring Conference in Whittemore.

Please remember to get your membership in and I hope everyone has a good holiday

God bless all American Legion Families and God Bless the USA. Janice Dornath



9th District President
Marjorie Brunsting

9th District has made me proud as we are beginning our year by being active members. The Fall Conference was hosted by Wasmer Post and Unit #241 of Le Mars. Wow, did they ever serve a great ribeye steak dinner for

Hospitality evening, cooked by the Legion. On Saturday, our conference was well attended, and we were honored to have many Department representatives attending on both the Legion and the Auxiliary sides. I especially enjoyed meeting Army Sgt. James Clinton and his service dog Patton, provided by Partners for Patriots from Anthon, IA, one of my projects, from right here in our 9th district. As usual, membership was stressed. Without members, we do not exist. Consider becoming

a PUFL before dues increase next year. Invite an eligible friend to attend a meeting with you, just to see what she/he thinks of it. Be welcoming. Be friendly. Make them feel at home. Tell them why you belong and why what you do is important. Please invite me to your county meetings. I love getting to know others in the district and learning how other Units and Counties do things. If you invite me, I will see you there!

IOWA VETERANS HOME

Christmas Open House

HOLIDAY COOKIE DONATIONS-2022

We are having our traditional Christmas Open House at the Iowa Veterans Home this year on December 3rd. Additionally, we are planning to hold smaller Christmas Socials and Holiday Parties on the units for residents and staff.

We are asking for monetary donations to purchase cookies for our residents to enjoy during the holiday season. If you chose to send a monetary donation, treats will be ordered from local bakeries and delivered to IVH a day before the event.

You can also prepare homemade cookies! We accept cut-out Christmas cookies that have been frosted and decorated- suggestions include oatmeal, chocolate chip, peanut butter, sugar etc. Please place the cookies in an air tight container or Ziplock bag so the cookies don't dry out and become too hard.

Please avoid bar-type cookies such as brownies, tollhouse bars, etc. as they do not hold up well during shipping and they dry out quickly. Place the cookies in a small box - no larger than 12" by 12" by 6" deep, if possible. Larger boxes have a tendency to crush, making the cookies crumble and break. Please layer the decorated cookies between layers of waxed paper and wrap the cookies in something air-tight like gallon size zip lock bags.

You may drop off cookies to our loading dock at the northwest corner of the Malloy building or ship to IVH. Address your box: Your Name Organization, Name and Number, Address, Town, Zip Code. Please include the number of Christmas cookies that are in the box.

Deliver to:

IVH FOOD SERVICE

1301 Summit Street

Marshalltown IA 50158-5485

Please have cookies arrive by December 1st -and thank you so much for your support!

Happy Holidays!!!

VA & R Mary Sebben

National President Vickie Koutz's special project this year is with regard to the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival (NVCAF). Her concentration is with the companions who accompany veterans to the NVCAF event.

As many of you already know, the NVCAF starts out with veterans competing at the local level at the local VA medical centers. Then the winners of the local events travel to the venue hosting the NVCAF event. The event is scheduled to be held in St. Louis, Missouri, from April 10-17, 2023.

Many of these veterans need companions to accompany

them on the trip. The sad part is many of the companions can't afford the expenses of traveling to the event, hotel accommodations (depending upon the relationship of the companion and the veteran) and/or paying for the meals (meals are paid for the veterans but not for the companions). Your units can help ease this worry for the veterans' companions by donating to this cause.

Please make your check out directly to the National American Legion Auxiliary and mail your check to: ALA National Headquarters, Accounts Receivable 3450 Founders Road Indianapolis, IN 46268 Write on the memo line "22-23 NP Project." Do not send check to the Department.

Junior Camp

I saw little Sally Walker walking down the street and she was letting me know that Junior Camp will be here earlier next year. Junior Camp has moved back to June and will be the 4th - 9th. Registration will be open on February 15th, 2023 and run till April 1st, 2023. Refunds need to be requested by May 1st. Registration is online. Councilors can start registration on April 1st and once the registration is processed through the Department office a background check will be sent followed by the Child Safety Course to be completed immediately upon receiving.

Program Director Donna Flewelling is working on a week of informative programs, Linda Sue Mullen will be leading our classroom, Angie Blazek will bring her creativity into our group with crafting ideas for the juniors followed by Rosemary Lancaster providing

exciting new activities for recreation. Sally also said the pool will be available and also kayaking and inflatables on the lake. If anyone is interested in joining us as a councilor please let me know. This is a week of learning for everyone, Juniors and Seniors!

We are having a new fundraiser this year at the Department Convention on Friday. We are really excited about this event and will share all the details with you at Mid-Winter Conference so everyone can take the information back to their Units and prepare for the fun!!! This will be a bidding fundraiser so be prepared. All proceeds going to Junior Camp fund.

More information to follow in the next issue of the Communique as we get closer to Junior Camp.

Doris Jackson,
ALA Junior Camp Director

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Is any unpaid work performed by a person or group for the benefit of their community. The beauty of Community Service is that it can be as simple or complex as you want it to be. It can be a fifteen-minute span of time or months of time to complete your task. For example, community service is as simple as picking up trash alongside the road or as complex as helping to build a Habitat for Humanity House. Community service is an important program within our Auxiliary which is why it is important that we as members of the American Legion Auxiliary volunteer within our communities. Even one hour of your time every 56 days can be life changing. Yes, I am talking about donating blood. Did you know that one person who gives blood has the potential to save up to three lives? That is a huge contribution for an hour of your time. Too squeamish to give blood? There are plenty of ways you can donate within your community. Contact local hospitals, hospices, schools, churches, food banks, daycares, etc. The list is endless. All you must do is pick something that interests you and go for it! Once you volunteer, your job doesn't stop there. Please make sure that you report your community service to your Auxiliary chairperson so they can in turn send a report to me. Reporting helps the Auxiliary to track the impact we are making on our communities. For more information on community service and the contests and deadlines, please refer to the plan of action.

**Please update my email in your address book to: kjdixon1964@gmail.com
Kim Dixon, Community Service**

AMERICANISM

Americanism is unfailing love and loyalty for our country! Americanism promotes patriotism for our country and loyalty to our amazing flag.

This ideal starts with educating our youth about patriotism by visiting our schools and other youth organizations. Talk to our youth about flag history, flag etiquette, and proper disposal methods. I am encouraging the following:

1. The American Legion Auxiliary's "Americanism Essay Contest." This is open to all youth from grade 3 through grade 12. There is also a class for students with special needs. Encourage your children/grandchildren and your junior members. This year's essay title is "What does patriotism mean to you?" There is a cover sheet that needs to be completed and contains all the information needed. Cover sheets are available through our national website (www.alaforveterans.org) or you may contact me at m_mooberry@yahoo.com and I will gladly send you the cover sheet. Cover sheets will be available at the Programs Fair in Mid-Winter also. This essay is due to me by April 1, 2023.
2. "STAR SPANGLED KIDS". Educate youth on the history of the United States from the aspect of patriotism, Americanism, and the U.S. Constitution
3. Involve youth in American Legion Americanism programs

Americanism touches our lives every day. Our American Legion Family is and should be the go-to organization for information on Americanism.

I am starting to post information about Americanism on my Facebook page (Mary Mooberry). Please send me information on any of your Unit activities for Americanism.

Mary Mooberry, Americanism Chairman

Merry Christmas! Yes, I said it...

Christmas has been in the retail stores since before Halloween, it is hard to believe that in just a few short weeks we will be celebrating Thanksgiving and then of course CHRISTMAS! While we are home celebrating with our family, we have Veterans that cannot due to distance or health. These veterans LOVE to give gifts to their families for Christmas and we can help!

The Marshalltown VAMC gives the residents gift cards to send to their family members. This project generously supported by YOU our members is in need of funds!

I challenge you individually and as a unit, county or district to support our veterans and help with this project! We are only 1/3 of the way to the amount needed to support all of the veterans for this holiday season. Please consider donating to this great project!

Now.. on another note!

Have you paid your unit obligations? These were due October 20. As of this writing there were still quite a few unpaid!

How about Gold Club? ALAMIS? All of these items are due as soon as possible in the Department of Iowa office.

From all of us on the finance team – Dawn, Julie and Ann MERRY CHRISTMAS!

MW Past President's Luncheon

This is the 32nd Anniversary of the Past President's luncheon. This luncheon is an honor to be able to attend for all the hard work you have given to the American Legion Auxiliary and your District. There are so many memories that we love to share with each other. As you are reading this, please send your \$28.00 check to the Department office earmarked Past President's Luncheon. Come join the fellowship!

Who: To all Past District Presidents and the 2022-2023 current Presidents
When: Saturday, February 11, 2023
Where: Mid-Winter Luncheon @ Noon
Why: Business meeting to elect officers and a memorial service
Guests: Department of Iowa President Jayne Soppe
Menu: Broccoli Cheese Soup, Sandwich, Chips, Cookie and beverage
Cost: \$28.00 to Department of Iowa ALA, 720 Lyon Street, Des Moines 50309
Deadline: February 6, 2023 – No exceptions and no refunds after this date

PUBLIC RELATIONS

#alaiaitogether- Are YOU remembering to use this hashtag in all your Unit, District, and Department social media postings???

The 5 w's are still important in using social media and hashtags:

- Who – everyone should use it when posting on social media.
- What - #alaiaitogether - Together is President Janice's tag word this year.
- Where - Using it in a hashtag on any social media including Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest, etc. will let other members know what you posted when they search for **#alaiaitogether**. It will create a community of like-minded members to gather ideas and inspiration. For example, on Veteran's Day if you posted pictures of your event you would put **#alaiaitogether** in your caption. Regardless of which platform they are posted on, hashtags are characterized by a "#" symbol followed by a word, phrase, or group of words. This word or set of words can contain no spaces or punctuation.
- Why - When used in this manner, this tag now becomes a searchable link. If you were to click on **#alaiaitogether**, you would now see all of the posts from other individuals posting Veteran's Day pictures, and actually, you will see the whole year's postings of ALA togetherness. If you post a Veteran's Day picture on your page without a hashtag, only your followers will see it. However, if you use the hashtag **#alaiaitogether** on a post, you are opening up the door to many other individuals who may also be interested in your content.

• When – Use whenever you want to have a searchable tag for others to find postings. Hashtags are a simple and practical way to organize content across different social media platforms. In a way, hashtags create several micro-communities of similar content.

You can have as many hashtags as you want in a posting. If Ames Unit 37 was to have a special Veterans Day event they might use **#alaiaitogether #amesunit37 #amesamericanlegionfamily #amespeople**.

Hashtags can also be found to discover the content of other accounts. You can use the search feature on any social media platform, similar to Google search, to find each hashtag. For example, try searching **#ALA100 #ALAGirlsNation #alagn21**. This functionality allows you to engage with content that is relevant and interesting to you.

Log into the member portal at alaforveterans.org and under committees, you will find Public Relations. The following Awards are detailed there.

Member Award: ALA Brand Ambassador

Unit Award: ALA Mission-Focused Social Media Account

Unit Award: Most Outstanding Unit Public Relations Program (per division)

Department Award: Best Department Public Relations (per division)

Ann Rehbein, Chairman

Service to Veterans

Working "Together" there are many ways to provide service to Veterans. Volunteering can include organizing or participating in a stand down, assembling care packages/tray favors/greeting cards, assisting with a Veteran's burial or gravesite upkeep, making and presenting Quilts of Valor to Veterans, cooking, shopping, or providing transportation to appointments. Volunteers are the very heart and soul of the VA&R program structure. Let us work together to make this a wonderful year of "Service, not Self" for our Veterans, military and their families. Whatever a veteran needs – job assistance, transportation, food, clothing, etc. – as Auxiliary volunteers, do your best to provide it. With troops constantly deploying with many of our volunteer service members serving multiple deployments, our mission to assist veterans and their families as they transition back to civilian life has never been more relevant than it is today.

Remember to always keep track of your service hours and expenses when serving veterans and their families. You can assist in activities that help homeless veterans, support rehabilitation and healing of veterans through arts, crafts, and hobbies. You can help the American Legion or other organizations to promote job fairs for veterans and their families. You can help soldiers transition back to civilian life by helping them access all their VA benefits, not just health care, by working closely with your local Legion Post Service Officer.

It is imperative when reporting your activities that you include your ALA member number on all reports and communications. All of us serve Veterans, but it is of utmost importance to report those hours, expenses and activities to me. If we do the work, but don't report it, no one will ever know how we Iowa volunteers have worked together to help our veterans. Reporting is important to let legislators and our communities know all the things we accomplish for our Veterans. Please submit a short narrative to me by mail or email of your unit's VA&R activities by December 15, 2022, so that I may submit my Mid-Year Report to the Central Division Chairman.

American Legion Auxiliary Abbreviated Mid-Winter Schedule

(Subject to change)

AUXILIARY REGISTRATION: Ballroom Foyer

February 10, 2023: 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. & 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

February 11, 2023: 7:30 a.m. to 9:30

POPPY SHOW: Iowa Foyer – February 11, 2023

8:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Pick up your entries by 4:00 p.m. Saturday.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2023

8:30 a.m.	Mid-Winter Convention Committee Meeting
9:00 a.m.	Finance Committee Meeting
9:30 a.m.	VA & R Representative Meeting
10:00 a.m.	Junior Camp Board Meeting
10:30 a.m.	Department Executive Committee
10:30 a.m.	Juniors, Jr. Activities C&Y, Education, GS, set up for Painting
12:00	Girls State Board Meeting
1:00 - 3:00	Poppy painting - Registration in advance
3:00 - 5:00	Poppy painting - Registration in advance
5:00 p.m.	Pages Practice – Grand Ballroom
5:00 p.m.	Set-up Programs Fair
7:00 p.m.	Joint Legion Family Session

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2023

7:30-8:30 a.m.	Joint Program Fair – Iowa Hall Room A -.
9:00 a.m.	Convene Auxiliary – North Ballroom
9:15 a.m.	Membership Americanism Chaplain Historian Past President Parley Leadership Finance Governing Documents VA&R Service to Veterans Community Service AEF
11:45 a.m.	Past District Presidents Luncheon – Iowa Rooms D and E. Advanced reservations are required.
1:00 p.m.	Marketing Together Team One Girls State Junior Camp / Activities Junior Activities Children and Youth Education Junior President Junior Presentation Poppy Award Winners
3:30 p.m.	Announcements Closing and Adjourn Receiving Line Department Vice President Candidate Department Junior President National Executive Committee Woman
3:45 p.m.	Tie Blankets – Registration in advance is required
5:30 p.m.	Silent Auction – Hosted by Girls State – Courtyard
8:00 p.m.	Special Entertainment

American Legion Auxiliary Juniors, WE WANT YOU at MID-WINTER!!

All the things you need to know

All Juniors ages 4-18 are welcome to join

Emergency Contact and Consent forms are required for participation

Friday Activities begin at 7:00pm Meet at 6:30 in the Foyer

Saturday Activities begin at 9:00am

Meet in the Auxiliary Conference Room for Opening

Contact Person: Alida Kolthoff 319-213-4125, jakolthoff@hotmail.com

Juniors are a huge part of the future of our organization.

This will be a great time to learn about the programs of the

American Legion Auxiliary while having a lot of fun!

Salute to Servicemembers Award Update

An update to the National Security Program in 2021-2022 was the addition of the Salute to Service Member Award, previously under Past Presidents Parley. With a revised name this year, the Salute to Servicemembers Award is open to active duty enlisted in all seven (7) branches of service regardless of gender. Past National President Mary Davis was instrumental in helping revise the nomination form for 2022-2023 and encourages all Departments to submit one nominee for this award for each branch of service. Wouldn't it be wonderful to see all seven branches of service represented on the stage during the 2023 National Convention? A nomination of this type is important to our enlisted personnel for recognition of their community involvement and becomes part of their personnel file. Very soon, an updated fillable nomination form will be posted on ALAforVeterans.org under the National Security link and information will be sent to all Department chairmen. In addition, some valuable FAQs will be sent as well and posted on the ALA National Security Facebook page. Not a member of the Facebook page, just ask to join, answer the three questions and you will be welcomed as a member of our page.

R.E.D (Remember Everyone Deployed) Friday

R.E.D. Friday was created to remind people of our Heroes overseas and show that we are thinking of them. People across the country wear red every Friday to serve as a reminder and spread the message of how important it is that we keep our troops in our thoughts throughout the year.

Being a part of R.E.D. Friday is easy: Just Wear Red on Friday and tell your friends why!

Take pictures, post on social accounts, and flood Facebook on Fridays to Remember Everyone Deployed.

If every one of our memberships shares this with other acquaintances, fellow workers, friends, and neighbors, I guarantee that it will not be long before the USA will be covered in RED – and make our troops know there are many people thinking of their well-being.

Let's get the word out and lead by example; the Friday of Department Convention weekend (February 10, 2023) please wear RED to show our support of our heroes. The ALA National Security Facebook page is posting a RED Friday picture on the first Friday of every month throughout this year. Let's show our Iowa pride for its heroes by wearing RED on Friday, February 10, 2023, and maybe we'll be the featured post in March 2023. Please pass the word to the entire Legion family.

Wendy Riggle,
ALA National Security 2022-23 Vice Chairman

National Security

I am Regina Chock, your National Security Chairman. Here are a few items that fall within this program, RED (Remember Everyone Deployed) Friday, wear your red and share awareness by posting on social media. National President wants to put special focus on raising awareness of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA). There is a website www.DPAA.MIL. DPAA's motto is "Fulfilling our Nation's Promise". We need to get the word out to the families, as we get further removed in generations from the missing, obtaining viable DNA is more difficult. Go check out this site, so you can spread the word about this program. Another program being highlighted is the Salute to Servicemember awards. Let's get some good nominations from the Department of Iowa. We need to be reaching out to your local National Guard units on what they need. Don't forget to follow ALA National Security on Facebook, with new postings on Monday and Wednesday. Reach out to share your stories. I look forward to hearing what you are doing, you can send them to me at regchock@gmail.com I would like to share them with others. I would like to hear about what you have done for the holidays and what you are doing. Thank you for all you do, and remember to report, report, report Together we are better!



Fifth Grade Flag Essay 2022-2023

General Information

The purpose of The American Legion of Iowa Essay contest is to develop 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.

Go to Iowa Legion website for application and instructions: ialegion.org/flag-essay/

Eligibility

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

Essay

The format for the essay is limited to the following:

- A one (1) page document
- Contains 300 words or less
- Double-spaced
- 12-point font
- 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.

As a resource for teachers who want to invite the veterans into the classroom prior to participation or as an introduction to the contest, posts may also offer the classroom teacher:

A copy of the 20-minute video, "For Which It Stands" and it is available through Emblem Sales (Item #755.400) at a cost of \$9.95.

Awards

Local and district contest awards, if any, will be the responsibility of the individual post and district. Each district finalist must be completed in time to be forwarded to The American Legion Department of Iowa Headquarters.

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

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.

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.

Deadlines

Local Posts should begin working with their schools and home-schooled students in their community in September each year. The deadline for submission of the District winner must be certified and forwarded to Department Headquarters, postmarked not later than January 22nd of the current program year. If the 22nd falls on a weekend, then postmarked by the next business day.

Establishment of Policy: When consulting with any youth participating in an authorized event, TWO adults will be present. This policy applies to all official programs and events recognized by The American Legion of Iowa.

2021 Flag Essay Winners

The Fifth-Grade Flag Essay Contest winners were judged by the Department Children and Youth Committee.

Download a copy of the Department Finalists

Department E-Newsletter
Distributed Twice/Month
Subscribe Today
www.ialegion.org/signup

2023 Boys State Reminders

June 11-16, 2023

@ Camp Dodge – Johnston, Iowa

The American Legion of Iowa Boys State opened Post Reservations in October. If your post wishes to participate in the program, there is still time to request a reservation. This process only notifies Boys State of your post's intention to send someone, it is not a Delegate/ Candidate Registration. Once your post completes a reservation, an email with instructions for delegates/ candidates to register will be sent to the corresponding email in the form. Do not send names to headquarters as that is not a registration. Do not send checks to headquarters as without filling out an online post reservation. Checks without an online reservation do not get processed and only hold up your post's process. Delegate Registrations will open on January 15, 2023, and close on April 1, 2023. Be sure to follow up with your delegate throughout the process. Posts who do not fill their reservations may request a refund no later than April 1, 2023. Refunds requests must be filled out online at: www.ialegion.org/refunds. District Orientations will be sent out with Delegate Registrations in January. If you have any questions, follow up with your District Chairman or Board Member.



Junior Shooting Sports

www.ialegion.org/jssp

The Department of Iowa's Junior Shoot Sports

Program has gained a following since it has been introduced. There is not any reason your post or club in your community cannot be involved with the program. The American Legion offers an affiliation program where posts can affiliate for free and receive information to participate in matches. Go to the American Legion's Website: www.legion.org and look under Programs for Junior Shooting Sports. Affiliation information can also be found on the Department Website.

The Department will again have its 3-Position Air Rifle Match on March 18, 2023, at Camp Dodge. Teams or clubs willing to participate can contact Department Headquarters for more information on registering.

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

Registration for the Department Match will be made available January 2023 at www.ialegion.org/jssp. For more information email: programs@ialegion.org or call 800-365-8387. Space is limited.



District Oratorical Contests

www.ialegion.org/oratorical

District 2: 1/7/2023 Snow Date: None 9:00 AM

Contact Info: Don Thiltgen (563) 659-9582 mrtillie@mchsi.com

Location: DeWitt City Hall 510 9th Street DeWitt, IA 52742

District 4: 1/7/2023 Snow Date: 1/14/2023 2:00 PM

Contact info: Dennis Soppe (563) 422-5092 soppedj@hotmail.com

Location: Trinity Lutheran Church

116 W Wilbur St. Hawkeye, IA 52147

District 5: 1/8/2023 Snow Date: 1/15/2023 2:00 PM

Contact info: Darrin Alderson (641) 660-0527

darrin.alderson3@gmail.com

Location: American Legion Post #136 21 Washington Ave W Albia, IA 52531

District 6: 1/8/2023 Snow Date: 1/15/2023 2:00 PM

Contact info: Frank Andrew (515) 240-5692 fmandrew@midiowa.net

Location: Collins Community Center 219 Main St. Collins, IA 50055

District 7: 1/8/2023 Snow Date: 1/15/2023 2:00 PM

Contact info: Joe Jardon (712) 370-6071 jmjardon2747@gmail.com

Location: Wilson Performing Arts Center 300 Commerce Dr Red Oak, IA 51566

District 9: 1/15,2023 Snow Date: 1/22/2023 2:00 PM

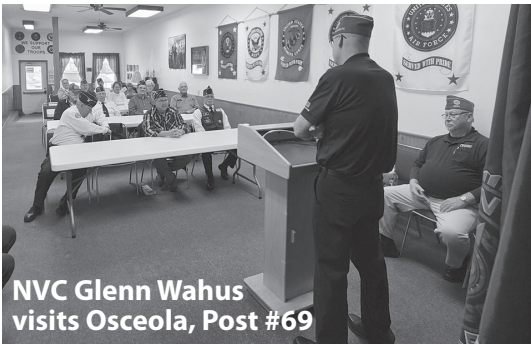
Contact info: James Kessler (712) 330-1738 jmkessler71@gmail.com

Location: Sioux Central High School 4440 U.S. HWY 71 Sioux Rapids, IA 50585





NVC Glenn Wahus
Visits Field of Dreams



NVC Glenn Wahus
visits Osceola, Post #69



NVC Glenn Wahus
visits Manly, Post #110

Oratorical Contest
A Constitutional Speech Contest

The purpose of The American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program is to develop a deeper knowledge and appreciation of the Constitution of the United States among high school students. Other objectives of the contest include the development of leadership qualities, the ability to think and speak clearly and intelligently, and the preparation for acceptance of the duties and responsibilities, rights, and privileges of American citizenship.

Go to the Iowa Legion website for application instructions and information:
ialegon.org/oratorical/

2022-2023 Department of Iowa Contest Completion Dates

Local Contests must be completed by December 4, 2022
County Contests must be completed by December 18, 2022
District Contests must be completed by January 15, 2023
(top 2 contestants may advance to area)

Area Contests must be completed by January 29, 2023

PLEASE NOTE: These contests DO NOT have to take place on the completion dates (Sundays).

Department Finals

2023 Department Contest will be conducted on Sunday, February 12, 2023 at 8:00 AM. The contest will be held at the Holiday Inn Des Moines-Airport & Conference Center.

National Finals

2023 National Finals will be April 21 – 23 in Indianapolis at the Wyndham Indianapolis West Hotel. Quarterfinal and semifinal contests are scheduled for Saturday, April 22 with the finals scheduled for Sunday, April 23.

Greetings Iowa Riders

As I sit down to write this and reflect on the past three months September saw many of us volunteering for Stand Downs in our areas, assisting our homeless veterans. When I first went to Des Moines to help years ago, I knew I'd be back. It's an operation with a real-time, see-it-today reward. Every year I come away knowing that we had made a difference. Don't misunderstand me, I want nothing more than to never have to have a homeless Veteran in need of something ever again, but that is a column for another time.

October brought on the district conference season. I attended 3 besides my own in D6, and the reports I'm getting back are that the Riders are always looking for more ways to be active in the community. Keep it up Riders, I tip my cap to all of you. Not only do we ride, but we also ride with a purpose. On the same subject, I continue to visit chapters and spread the word that the Department command not only wants us to be included, but they also want to be included in what we do. If you have a function, extend an invitation to other Chapters in your area, your Post, your District staff, and to Department. Every event we do together builds a stronger TEAM.

November has just started as I write this and I'm beginning to look ahead to next year. There are so many requests for the Riders to participate across the state it's certainly going to be a busy year but keep the ideas coming and keep sharing what you're doing. The Legion Riders as an organization turn 30 next year, what are some ideas you have for celebrating?

Let me know at alrofiowa@gmail.com

Now for a little housekeeping business. The Riders are a program of the American Legion, and to maintain status as a Legion Rider including holding an office in the Chapters, you MUST have your membership paid for 2023. This includes your SAL or ALA dues. You can renew at ialegon.org or at your post, and your dues are a large part of what funds everything the American Legion Stands for.

The National Commander, Jim Trulio shared something I want to mention. American Legion members around the world reported over 13 million volunteer community-service hours in the 2021-22 membership year. What's important is only about 67% of the more than 12,200 local posts submitted reports for the year. As Riders, any time we wear our vests count towards your posts Community Service Report. Be sure to keep a list of your time at your monthly meetings, total it up, and submit it to your Post Adjutant. This does several things, first, it gives proof when the Legion goes to Congress to explain what we do, and how much of it we do.

Second and to me more importantly, it gives a record to your Post, and District, of all the time that we as Riders are acting in the interest of the American Legion and what it stands for.

Riders, we are without a doubt the most visible member of the Legion Family. Carry some Legion literature and membership forms with you when you ride, and remember that as we go out every day, we are ambassadors, and we represent an organization with over 100 years of dedication to our veterans and their families. That's all I have for now; may everyone have a safe and happy holiday season with their families and remember those that cannot be with theirs.

Ride safe if you do ride, and I'll see everyone at Mid-Winter.

Cliff Barker



Baseball
www.ialegon.org/baseball

Teams committed to play in the 2023 Season will need to have their coaches/managers attend the Mid-Winter meeting on Saturday, February 12, 2022. The meeting will be at the Airport Holiday Inn at 11:00 AM. Area and State Tournament details will be discussed at this meeting. If a member of your team cannot attend, please notify your District Chairman. If you don't have a District Chairman, contact Department via email: programs@ialegon.org. All members of the Department Baseball Committee as well as coaches and managers are highly encouraged to attend.

- January 3 Background checks & team registration for the new season are available.
- February 1 Post needed to host state tournament.
- February 12 During Mid-Winter Conference – Baseball Committee meeting with coaches. Areas & Department Tournament will be determined at this meeting. 11 AM Airport Holiday Inn Des Moines Room.
- February 28 Registration fees due to National: <https://baseball.legion.org> (no exceptions/extensions).
- April 1 Player Indemnification Forms (Form 2) due to Dept Headquarters (no exceptions/extensions).
 - Team rosters are due through National's site: <https://baseball.legion.org>
 - *Mandatory background checks and abuse training certification due
- April 5 Rosters certified by Baseball Committee
- April 22 & 23 Area Tournaments (TBD)
- April 29 & 30 State Tournament (TBD)
- May 31 Player Scholarship Forms are due to Department Headquarters. The winner will be named at the convention.
- August Regional Tournament (TBD) & World Series (Shelby, NC)

Val Likens Award
www.ialegon.org/service-office

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

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

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

**POST & SQUADRON
EVERLASTING 09/01/2022**
- 10/31/2022
SPENCER #1
JAMES A BERHOW
ELDON A KOPEL
COUNCIL BLUFFS #2
DENNIS W JEPPESEN
THOMAS H GANN
OTTUMWA #3
PHILLIP KECK
BRUCE WOODARD
LARRY J CAMAHAN
HUBBARD #4
ROBERT BLOME
RAYMOND KLEMMIE
DUBUQUE #6
ELDON A BIVER
RICHARD D DEVANEY Sr
WILLIAM H FROMMELT
ROBERT C WOLF
GENE B MEYER
CARROLL #7
LESLIE BUTLER
DENISON #8
LAVERNE L MILOW
LUMAN J COLTON
WENDELL ARGOTSINGER
OELWEIN #9
FRANK AIELLO
ANAMOSA #13
JOHN F LEONARD
EUGENE P BRAY
DONALD E SMITH
SWEA CITY #14
BERNARD E BURNETT Sr
WEST UNION #15
JAMES E FRIEDERICH
WAYNE HAVENSTRITE
HARRY A PAPE
STEVE PETERSON
IOWA CITY #17
LYNN H CROW
POCAHONTAS #18
ROBERT L WENTZEL
SIGOURNEY #19
WESLEY C JACOBI Jr
DEDHAM #20
EDWARD F PLETCHETTE
JEROME LANGE
BUFFALO CENTER #21
LUVERNE J RISIUS
GEORGE M GOOD
DAVENPORT #26
DONALD A STOFFA
MUSCATINE #27
MELVIN J HUTCHINGS
DONALD E WATSON
WAYNE A BARNES
WASHINGTON #29
CHARLES H PACHA
DONALD J DEMPSEY
MYNARD GOFF Jr
INDEPENDENCE #30
GEORGE B ALDRICH
RONALD D BILLINGSLEY
JAMES B BEATTY
RUTHVEN #33
ROBERT FINNEGAN
OSKALOOSA #34
KEITH E LUNDY
DAVID L MARSHALL
KEOKUK #41
MICHJAE L LEMON
GENE H HOWES
ATLANTIC #43
HARLEY J MOODIE
BAYARD #44
WILLIAM H CORNISH
JOHN J SHIRBROUN
MARSHALLTOWN #46
MELVIN FREESE
CRAIG M EDGAR
RICK A PETERSON
ALOIS J FIENUP
VIRGIL L THOMPSON
BARRY LYNCH
JOHN O BUCHHOLZ
NEVADA #48
JAMES D STEPHENS
BURLINGTON #52
HAROLD T CASADY
MILTON N BRANCHINI
ROYAL C TRIMMERMAN
JAMES WAGONER
RICHARD E OETKEN
BOONE #56
EUGENE O MERRILL
VINTON #57
JAMES O FULLER
MT. PLEASANT #58
TED D STONER
WALTER W WILT
STORY CITY #59
KENNETH GOOKIN
PAUL G ANDERSON
IDA GROVE #61
ALLEN IVERSEN
RICHARD B HAMANN
GENE E SCHNEIDER
ROBERT E SMITH
JACK A WRIGHT

GUY K BARRETT
WAYNE DANKERT
WAUKON #62
NEIL E BECKER
MERYLE S HONN
JOHN A REGAN
SIOUX CITY #64
DUANE D PERRETT
JERRY V FARLEY
CHARTER OAK #66
JOSEPH L REMMES
NORMAN A KIEPE
JAMES D RILEY
OSCEOLA #69
DARL K REYNOLDS
ROBERT G CLARK
PAUL E SANDERS
CRESTON #70
JACK H FREESE
DOYLE HEMBRY
TOLEDO #72
WAYNE G GRAY
DUANE R UPAH
DARRYL W STEVENSON
LARRY H SMITH
TAMA #73
HAROLD SCHUETT
JACK E WALKER
CORRECTIONVILLE #79
RONALD R NELSON
LEON #80
DWIGHT HERKELMAN
COLLINS #81
ALVIS E SHAW
FORT MADISON #82
RAYMOND H HOLT
LISCOMB #87
NORVAL K MOSHER
SHENANDOAH #88
DARRELL D ALLELY
PELLA #89
LOGAN VANDER LEEST
JOHN D PETERSON
WESTGATE #92
WAYNE F MOHLIS
PAULLINA #95
LE R PINGEL
COLUMBUS JCT #100
MARK L VANAUKEN
DENNIS E FRITZ
MASON CITY #101
GENE M KUEHN
CHARITON #102
STEVE ALLEN
PLEASANTVILLE #108
LANE W JARVIS
ARDEN R SHOOP
DENNY P JACK
NEWTON #111
BERNARD J DECKER
DUANE LAUBER
MAX W RABOURN
MYRON A RHONE
DONALD L CATLETT
PAUL E ROSS
DONALD R PATTERSON
AUDUBON #120
THOAMS J GARBER
FOREST CITY #121
BYRON D RUITER
RICHARD E CAMPNEY
ROGER D NELSON
DAVID B REINEKE
STATE CENTER #122
WILLIAM H SEEGER
TIPTON #123
WARREN D WILLIAMS
GUTHRIE CNTR #124
AMOS ROYER
GLADBROOK #127
DALE OSTEN
FT DODGE #130
DUANE L ZIERKE
ROLAND E MCKAY
DAVID L MCGAUGHY
BEAMAN #131
CLIFFORD C SAMS
LAKE VIEW #133
JEFFERY W HILLMAN
DYERSVILLE #137
LEO KLOSTERMANN
WATERLOO #138
RICHARD L ANDERSON
PAUL E KRIENER
ELDON E ABBEN
LARRY E MCGRANE
ROBERT JASPER
KINGSLEY #140
DALE F MURRAY
GERALD FORCH
GLENWOOD #141
JAMES M OSLER
ARTHUR O GAETZ
GERALD D STADY
LARRY KRUSE
TRAER #142
GARY MCCULLY
DENNIS R MITCHELL
WOODBINE #143
RALPH BARRY
ERVIN POORE
ROBERT STANISLAV

VAN HORNE #148
JAMES N BARR
GEORGE D REISS
HARLAN #150
LESLIE H BLUM
SUTHERLAND #152
LEON R STANFORD
NASHUA #153
THOMAS J KOLODZIEJ
RONALD A BILHARZ
MITCHELLVILLE #155
DAVID M EDWARDS
EARLHAM #158
LARRY HENKLE
LARRY N HANLEY
GRAETTINGER #162
LLOYD MCCOMBS
DECORAH #163
JAMES P LAGE
LARRY T GUNHUS
INDIANOLA #165
M D HEAVILLIN
LOYAL KOENCK
CHARLES KERR
SHELLSBURG #166
ROBERT S MISKIMEN
RICHARD E SISCO JR
MONTEZUMA #169
ROGER D NEELS
RAE H VANROECKEL
DALE K WATTS
PHILIP WATT
DAVID E KESTER
BLAIRSTOWN #170
JOHN C NIEBUHR
ALLEN L CRESS
MARY THORMAN
ELVER SORENSEN
JIM STEWART
MESERVEY #172
PHILIP BURMEISTER
AYRSHIRE #173
GORDON L ROUSE
GERALD CONLON
COLFAX #175
ROBERT E VANELSEN
WAVERLY #176
SCOTT WHITLEY
ELDORA #182
WADE J PERKINS
HAMPTON #183
STEPHEN HANSON
WINTERSET #184
THOMAS J KNAPP
AKRON #186
DONALD R FEAUTO
GERD J LUDWIGS
JERRY I RYAN
DONALD D CORNISH
LARRY C FAUST
MARLIN D HILLRICHS
IA FALLS #188
ALFRED S PRESCOTT
GEORGE UMSCHIED
WEBSTER CITY #191
LARRY W HUMMEL
ALAN D SHEHORN
RANDY YOUNGDALE
FRED TRASK
TIM MORGAN
NEWELL #193
JON L ITES
ELDON #206
CLAUDE MCCOY
LA PORTE CITY #207
HAROLD A GATES
ELZIE G LEE JR
MONTICELLO #209
DON T MIYAGAWA
ANITA #210
LLOYD REED
ROBERT L PETERSON
CENTERVILLE #214
JAMES G MILANI
ATKINS #217
DAVID HERMAN
ARLINGTON #219
DUANE SCHMIDT
C E SLITER
DAVID MORGAN
DUANE P SCHROEDER
HOLSTEIN #225
JAMES J MCGUIRE
AVOCA #227
ARTHUR R LARSEN
CORWITH #229
ROBERT J WELTER
FARMINGTON #231
ROBERT F COCHRAN
JIM BENEDICT
GENE E SMITH
EUGENE ROONEY
POLK CITY #232
ROBERT G NUEHRING
DAVID ERICKSON
DEAN HOLSTAD
JOHN T KELSO
CEDAR FALLS #237
WILLIAM J CRAIG JR
DEWIT #238
DANIEL B KAUFMAN
ROBERT OWENS

EDWARD GRILLOT
SHELBY #240
DERALD L GRAYBILL
GLENN LEE
LE MARS #241
ED S YAGEL
THOMAS A BRITT
STAN CULLEY
DALE J DONLIN
LARRY H RUHLAND
RODNEY H SCHOLTEN
DANNY E VERMILYEA
HERMAN D VANDERWELL
ROBERT LANG
REINBECK #242
CURTIS L SEBEKOW
MEDIAPOLIS #243
KENNETH W RECHKEMMER
RICEVILLE #244
JAMES E BODENHAM
LENOX #250
DEAN LARIMER
JOHN H JOHNSON
ACKLEY #252
DALE IBELING
HAWARDEN #254
ANTHONY J DEKKERS
UNION #255
LEO E DIGHTON
EUGENE F MULL JR
MILO #263
GEORGE H LAWLER
ROGER MURRAY
GREENE #268
JACK A MCDONALD
ANDREW F NIXT
MERRILL J PETERS
LES JOHNSON
SAM SNEED
CHELSEA #269
LEONARD L BALVIN
BELLEVUE #273
RICHARD G DAGITZ
CHARLES J ROLING
BERNARD F KUHLMANN
DONALD F BOHY
RANDY JOHNSON
DES MOINES #274
ED L COOLEY
KENNETH L NELSON
GENE A ALBERS
STEPHEN J HOPKINS
PETER BRACHTEL
OSAGE #278
ROBERT E ERDMANN
TILLET M HAALAND
CLARENCE #286
EUGENE MCCAW
BARNELL ROWOLD
HARTLEY #288
G T POWERS
RAYMOND STARR
BROOKLYN #294
WILBUR ANDERSON
SLOAN #295
VERNON R JENSEN
MARION #298
ROGER J WILTGEN
DARREL L ANDRE
DONN W CARNAL
ROBERT D CHIAFOS
CLARENCE M FRETT
GENE F MUNIER
ALBERT J SOUKUP
M DUANE WELTHA
OWEN DIETRICH
ROWE C ZEHMS
MERLE W PRICE
LOUIS L STOLBA
DE'WAYNE BROWNING
JAMES T HIGHAM
CHARLES T CRULL
MIKE STEGEN
TERRY L LOVELESS
FRED G LANE
KENT G BAKER
DALE A MEYER
MOVILLE #303
E E MAXWELL
MARVIN J WYCOFF
HUMESTON #306
RONALD W RICKERT
ROLAND #307
JACK W FRANDSEN
VERNON EGLAND
MECHANICSVILLE #309
LOUIS H LANGENBERG
PERSIA #314
ROBERT KUSTER
BRITT #315
JAMES A TRULSON
JAMES P RASMUSON
LITTLE ROCK #316
MARVIN W KANENGIETER
SANBORN #318
BEN N ROHWER
MIKE R BENNER
KESWICK #319
JAMES F HALL
ROCK VALLEY #321
FRED VIASTUIN
EARLY #325

JOSEPH K SIPPEL
OCHEYEDAN #326
BRIAN D SCHWARTING
ORANGE CITY #329
TONY VERDOORN
JACK OOLMAN
PAUL VANENGELNHOVEN
ARTHUT HIELKEMA
NEOLA #330
JOHN H BRICH
SPRINGVILLE #331
ERNEST J BURESH
WESLEY M FOLLENSBEE
DEL C PROUT
JOE M BROWN
EXIRA #332
STEVEN NANCARROW
RONALD D GRAHAM
CHARLES L KLINE
MCCALLSBURG #334
EUGENE J HAUPTLY
GEORGE H BORTON
DYSART #335
MERLIN LASSEN
MISSOURI VALLEY #337
JOSEPH C WEATHERLY
FAYETTE #339
BERNARD PATTISON
LEWIS SHIPWASH
MYSTIC #340
MORRIS B KRIZICH
JESUP #342
MELVIN P WEBER
LAMONT #346
CHARLES PECH
LECLAIRE #347
WESLEY H KUEHL SR
GRUNDY CENTER #349
HAROLD DOLE
RICHARD K SCHMIDT
BRAYTON #350
RAMON L WHEELER
DIXON #353
ROY HUSEN
ST. ANSGAR #358
GERALD E HALVERSON
RICHARD A WOLD
HAROLD G KRATZ
COGGON #362
ALLAN L REDDICK
MONROE #363
LARRY VANWINKLE
BERNARD W VAN WYK
LOWDEN #366
ROBERT J SEVERIN
GOLDFIELD #370
EARL S ODLAND
PANORA #372
FLOYD L SAYLES
GUTTENBERG #373
CHARLENE G ANDREGG
FRANK G SPIELBAUER
ELLEN M BURDEAUX
DES MOINES #374
LARRY G LONG
WALKER #376
TERENCE J DEVEREUX
LOST NATION #381
JOHN R BURKE
KIRON #383
ROBERT CRAMPTON
WESLEY STEHLIK
MILFORD #384
CHARLES F BAKER
TOM LARSON
GLIDDEN #386
LOWELL JANNING
ROBERT F GREGORY
ST OLAF #388
RICHARD E HUCKSTADT
ELMER SCHUETY
ANTHON #389
JOE HARBAUGH
KENNETH L ANDERSON
AURELIA #390
VAL D KOCH
SIOUX RAPIDS #394
DONALD E TSCHERTER
BONDURANT #396
DEAN K BARRETT
VAN METER #403
JOHN M PIRILLO
EUGENE CARPENTER
NEIL W BIRCHER
TERRENCE M SIMONSON
UNIONVILLE #407
MERL STEVENS
CRYSTAL LAKE #409
ORVAL G JAMTGAARD JR
DEXTER #419
NORBERT F TIGGES
DONALD W HYNDMAN
CENTRAL CITY #421
ALLEN HURT
WHITTEMORE #425
KEITH A SEELY
BOB CARROLL
WESLEY #428
THOMAS D REILING
TERRIL #432
DUANE GUNDERSON
AURORA #435

ALFRED O HOTCHKISS
DOW CITY #444
GEORGE M BRANDT
NORA SPRINGS #449
THOMAS FINGALSEN
JERRY KELLEY
CLUTIER #453
EUGENE E ZMOLEK
VERNON ZMOLEK
FRANK M KRIZ
LONE TREE #457
MEARLE D WALKER
GLADYS C ZIBILICH
JAMES C JOHNSON
SOLON #460
WAYNE CROY
JAMES K WILSON
MAC MCCORMICK
DONALD B GRIFFITH
ARTHUR W BONNER III
SPILLVILLE #467
JERALD R HENDERSON
LOUIS E ALBERTSON
MELVIN #470
MICHAEL SEIVERT
ROBERT B KNOCK
LYLE MAYER
GARRISON #475
ROBERT C BEYER
HINTON #477
ARNOLD W BINNEBOESE
WHITING #481
WESLEY C MILLER
RICHARD BOSTON
DAVENPORT #482
JESSIE J JONES
NORTH ENGLISH #488
JAMES WORRALL
DOUDS #494
CLARENCE TROUT
ROBBIE STINSON
GORDON A FRANKLIN
LOYAL FULTON
WEST LIBERTY #509
H F MELICK
FARNHAMVILLE #510
RON HICKEY
WEST BRANCH #514
MARY I VALDEZ
MARCUS #517
JAMES L WIESE
POSTVILLE #518
JOHN H KITTLESON
JANESVILLE #522
JOHN J FOLKERDS
CASCADE #528
LEE MANTERNACH
MICHAEL J DOLPHIN
RICHARD A KOPPEL
LEROY A PETERSEN
ALLAN B NOONAN
JOHN R LAWLER
OTTOSEN #535
ELDEN W MEYER
WALCOTT #548
MERLE A MEINERT
LONE ROCK #557
GARY D ACKERMAN
CUMMING #562
WILLIAM G CALLISON
WILLARD FREESE
FRANCIS M HUTCHINS
EUGENE O SCULLY
BONAPARTE #563
ERVIN MCCrackEN
GERALD KELLER
WALLINGFORD #567
BERNARD H NIELSEN
STACYVILLE #569
GLEN MAYER
BURTON R HOGAN
FAIRFAX #572
WILLIAM A SCHULTE
EMERSON #575
GLEN NELSON
STRATFORD #576
STEPHEN O ANDERSON
GRIMES #577
FRED ROTH
DONALD R STARNES
HARRY L WEIS
ELMA #597
NELDON A SWANCUTT
GRAND MOUND #622
DEVERE GANZER
OLDS #626
RICHARD TOLANDER
FENTON #627
LARRY BIERSTEDT
MERLE VOIGT
ROBERT J BROCK
JAMES C TRASK
PRCHARD #641
THOMAS NIESS
EPWORTH #650
WILLIS RAUEN
DENVER #653
REGINALD WITT
FARLEY #656
GERALD BRENKE
JERRY C DREES
DES MOINES #659

KENNETH E VIRDEN
HARRY J LAVIGNE
JOHN H SWAN
SGT BLUFF #662
DANIEL R CARPENTER
DARRELL E LAKE
URBANDALE #663
WAYNE F GASS
DONALD L WEDERQUIST
GLENN I LOVE
STEVEN P VANDER WAAL
BATAVIA #667
ALLAN A AUGUSTINE
RICHARD A BREWINGTON
WEST POINT #668
RICHARD L FETT
LARRABEE #670
WAYNE STEWART
SWISHER #671
JAMES C COLEMAN
DAVID A GUENTHER
LEDYARD #675
ORLAND D PETERSON
LAWRENCE E TERNES
CONRAD #681
THOMAS PIEPER
HOWARD D CAKERICE
DON MACY
LESTER #683
ALAN N MAURER
ST LUCAS #691
CHARLES M STAMMEYER
RYAN #692
RICHARD D WADE
ARCADIA #694
RONALD P VOGI
DENNIS W BERG
SIOUX CITY #697
DOUG P WILLIAMS
DEFIANCE #707
HAROLD J SCHWERY
BLUE GRASS #711
RAYMOND T MILLER
GILBERTVILLE #714
JOSEPH GIRSCH
SST MARYS #716
RICHARD W STILLS
JAMES E BROMMEL
ELDON R WATTONVILLE
DALE GAVIN
NEVINVILLE #719
CALVIN MCCURDY
CORALVILLE #721
GERALD KOEPP
HARPERS FERRY #722
ALLAN PALMER
IOWA HQ #729
ROBERT E GLAU
DENNIS W GRUNDEL
CHAS PRALL
GREGORY JOHNSON
KENNETH J HARTMAN SR
BERNARD E NIBBELINK
JERRY L COURTNEY
DENNY MEIER
DICK KRAMBECK
N JASON BECK
DENNIS REGAN
HIAWATHA #735
JOHN C KRIZ
WAUKEE #737
GERALD V FOSTER

**SQUADRRON
EVERLASTING
COUNCIL BLUFFS #2**
KEN M SHERIDAN
CHRISTOPHER J HELM
MUSCATINE #27
DENNIS E FRITZ
WILLIAM S HILL
OSKALOOSA #34
MARVIN L STOUT
KEOKUK #41
DANNIE D WATTS
WATERLOO #138
RICK A NIEDERMANN
MIKE FLACK
WEBSTER CITY #191
TIMOTHY P LUND
FARMINGTON #231
DONNIE E POOLE
TOM R JENKINS
REINBECK #242
CURTIS L SEBEKOW
LAWLER #279
ANTHONY M BLAZEK
RICH A FRANZEN
SPRINGVILLE #331
JOHN D MILLER
GARY L STRAND
WEST LIBERTY #509
MORRIE A NOBLE
JAY STATSER
DENNIS WACHS
CRAIG MAURER
NEVINVILLE #719
STEVE C NICHOLAS

**THE AMERICAN LEGION
SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS
MID-WINTER SCHEDULE**

(Subject to Change)

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2023

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

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2023

9:00 am Convention Commission – Room 397
10:00 am National Affairs Commission – Room 292
10:00 am VA & R Commission Meeting – Room 396
10:00 am Legislative Commission – Room 398
10:00 am Americanism Commission – Iowa D
10:00 am Internal Affairs Commission – Iowa C
11:00 am Resolution Sub-Committee – Room 175
12:00 pm DEC Luncheon – Iowa E
1:00 pm DEC Meeting – Iowa C-D
5:00 pm Color Guard Practice – Ballroom
5:00 pm Programs Fair Setup – Iowa A
5:00 pm Liaison Committee – Iowa C-D
7:00 pm Joint Session – Ballroom
Call to Order – Randy Johnson, Department Commander
Posting of Colors
Invocation – Connie Wagner, Auxiliary Chaplain
POW/MIA Empty Chair – Steve Colcord, Department Sergeant-at-Arms & Marvin Carr, Department Vice Commander
Pledge of Allegiance
Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion
Welcome – Randy Johnson, Department Commander
Patriotic Music – Young Patriots Club
Welcome – James Lastovka, SAL Detachment Commander
Address – Christopher Carlton (IN), SAL National Commander
Welcome – Jayne Soppe, ALA Department President
Address – Sadie Breyfogle, ALA Department Junior President
Presentations
Membership Awards
American Legion of Iowa Foundation Donor Awards
TAL Department Historian Awards
Address – Jim LaCoursiere (CT),
Candidate for National Commander 2024-2025
Address – Glenn Wahus (ND), National Vice Commander
Evening Hospitality & Entertainment – Courtyard

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2023

7:00 am Iowa Foundation Breakfast – Iowa E
7:30 am Programs Fair – Iowa A
9:00 am SAL Detachment Executive Committee – Westview Room
9:00 am MyLegion.org Post Training – Iowa B
9:00 am General Session 1 – Ballroom South/Central
Post Organizational Life Cycle
Be the One with Buddy Checks
ASSIST Suicide Prevention Training
11:00 am Baseball Meeting – Room 398
12:00 pm Past District Commanders' Luncheon – Iowa E
1:00 pm MyLegion.org District/County Training – Iowa B
1:00 pm General Session 2 – Ballroom South/Central
Mission Membership Brief
Communicating Your Legion Story
Engaging with Local Elected Officials
3:30 pm District Caucuses
First – Iowa B
Second – Room 175
Third – Ballroom South
Fourth – Room 394
Fifth – Room 398
Sixth – Iowa C
Seventh – Room 396
Eighth – Room 292
Ninth – Room 397
5:00 pm American Legion Riders – Room 397
5:30 pm Women Veterans Forum – Room 292
5:30 pm Protestant Services – Ballroom South
6:30 pm Past Department Commanders/Past Department Presidents/Past Detachment Commanders Social & Dinner – Iowa E
7:00 pm Oratorical Contestant/Staff Briefings – Ballroom South
Evening Hospitality and Entertainment – Courtyard

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2023

7:00 am Oratorical Briefing Room – Iowa E
8:00 am Department Oratorical Finals – Ballroom North
9:30 am Joint Session – Ballroom
Memorial Service – Whitney Smith McIntosh, Department Chaplain
Call to Order – Randy Johnson, Department Commander
Presentations – Girls State Director/Boys State Director
Girls Nation Senators
Boys Nation Senators
Oratorical Results/Awards Ceremony, Chair Pete Madsen
Sweepstakes Drawing Results
Closing Remarks – James Lastovka, Detachment Commander
Closing Remarks – Jayne Soppe, Department President
Closing Remarks – Randy Johnson, Department Commander
Benediction – Whitney Smith McIntosh, Department Chaplain
Retire Colors

Children & Youth Committee, Department of Iowa

**Rick Williams-Chair, Cindy Yslas-Vice-Chair,
Dr Dan McClure-Vice-Chair**

November 4, 2022

To: District Commanders and C & Y District Committee Chairs
Please share this with the posts in your district.

Regarding 5th Grade flag essays, when posts forward the winning entry to the district level we recommend that they **make a copy** of the essay and application for their records. Posts must submit/post mark, one winning entry/application to the District C & Y by January 5th, please provide them with your mailing address. On the application page for the Flag Essays in the top section be sure they include the total number of school participants in the essay in Section I, the post may have more than one elementary school that it approaches so they should include the total number essays from all the schools, in Section I of the application. Please read the attachments for instructions for the flag essays. In the District application section it asks for the total number of contestants, that is the number of contestants from each post in your district that you received (not just the winning contestant).

Oratorical Contest information is in the attachment.
Local Contests must be completed by December 4, 2022
County Contests must be completed by December 18, 2022
District Contests must be completed by January 15, 2023 (top 2 contestants may advance to area)
Area Contests must be completed by January 29, 2023, PLEASE NOTE: These contests DO NOT have to take place on the completion dates (Sundays).
Boys State program information is in the attachment.
In October you can begin making your post's reservations.
Delegates can register based on the letter they receive from their sponsoring post beginning January 15, 2023.
April 1, 2023 is the last day for posts to request refunds and delegates to register.

Junior Shooting Sports (JSSP) information is in the attachment you can go to the Iowa Legion website for application and information: ialegon.org/jssp/ A new post club must submit official affiliation form by December 31. Each shooter registration is due by March 1st, 2023. The Department competition will be on March 18, 2023.

**Anchors aweigh,
Rick Williams Chair, C & Y 6th District
5916 Crown Lane, Des Moines, IA 50311
(515) 314-8597
rickdwilliams51@gmail.com**



Members of American Legion Post #11 of Jefferson dedicated a 6-foot concrete bench to the community on Oct. 22. The bench is located across from the Army tank on the north side of Lincoln Way, across from the Milwaukee Road depot. American Legion members thought seating was needed in the immediate vicinity of the tank and World War I monument.



Veterans attending the dedication service were (standing, from left) Steve Nelsen, Barb Labate, Larry Monthei, Joe Murray, Don Yepsen, Jerry Vincent, Kenneth Arbuckle, Jim Andrew, Louis Swanson, Earl Cherryholmes, Rich Smith, Dennis Hendricks, Elvin Thompson, Mike Minnehan, Fred Long, Danny Marks, Haven Frantz, Dwight Dillivan, Guy Richardson and Zandra Maldonado. Seated are Paul Wilber (left) and Glenn Carstensen.

Assisting with the project were Don Labate, bench site preparation, and Tanner Scheuermann, Greene County conservation director.

photos courtesy of Don Labate

Detachment of Iowa S.A.L.

Member of the Year Nomination Narrative

It is with great pleasure that I nominate Robert E. Hines for the Detachment of Iowa Sons of The American Legion Member of the Year Award for 2022. When I floated the idea of starting a Sons Squadron to the members of Wapsie Post 473, it was Robert's father (Legionnaire Bill Hines) who told me of his son. He related that Robert was afflicted with Cerebral Palsy/quadruplegia, that he had been wheelchair-bound his entire life and requires assistance with many of his daily needs. I did not know Robert at the time, but when I contacted him and explained what the Sons were all about and that I wanted to start a Squadron, he readily volunteered to do whatever he could to help out. Little did I know just how much he would contribute. In his motorized wheelchair, he immediately began helping with soliciting membership by placing recruiting posters throughout the community and answering questions from prospective members. During our first meeting, when discussing the makeup of the Squadron and the need for officers, he asked to become the Squadron Adjutant because, with his physical limitations, he believed that he could fulfill the responsibilities of that particular job versus any of the other positions. He was subsequently nominated for the Adjutant position and elected with a unanimous vote. Due to the fact that he was not currently employed and was able to conduct business during the daytime hours, he was nominated for the Finance Officer position as well. He has performed admirably and beyond expectations in both of these positions.

Simply put, I don't believe that we would have ever gotten the Squadron up and running, chartered, and functioning without his incredible foresight and persistent efforts. Aside from leading the charge with recruiting, he was instrumental in getting the charter application submitted and processing the membership applications through the Post Adjutant. While awaiting approval of the charter application, he established a checking account for the Squadron, so that the membership cards for our 34 applicants could be processed expeditiously. Once the National and Detachment portions of the cards were filled out and mailed to Department Headquarters, he then mailed each member their card along with a personalized note of thanks.

Always positive and upbeat, Robert is an astute individual who has a knack for detail in working on day-to-day issues, as well as focusing on the big picture. I am simply in awe of what he does on a consistent basis.

In my 30-year military career and subsequent 18 years of work in the Federal Civil Service, he stands out as one of the most reliable individuals that I have ever encountered. He has attended every meeting since the beginning of our organizational efforts; he has attended every Post meeting as well, in order to learn more about what The American Legion is all about and how the Sons Squadron could better assist in making them be more successful. Not fixated on only the Sons Squadron, he is focused on making improvements for the entire American Legion Family of our community. Seeing that the Post was struggling financially, he proposed to the Sons that they donate

\$150.00 to the Post so that they could purchase a Two-Year Social & Charitable Gambling License from the State to enhance their fundraising capabilities. Also noticing a need for improved communication within the Post, he built a website for the entire Oxford Junction American Legion Family (OJLegion.com), which includes separate tabs for our Post, our Auxiliary Unit, and our Sons Squadron. Serving as the webmaster, Robert continues to add to and provide updates to improve the site. We received so many favorable comments about this website that we recently entered it in the Department Media Contest. Robert is the epitome of hard work and determination. The Oxford Junction American Legion Family would not be where it is today without the efforts put forth by this multi-talented individual. I truly believe that there is no other member in the entire Detachment who has put their heart and soul into making the Sons a success than Robert Hines, and I therefore strongly encourage you to consider him for this coveted award.

Please contact me if you have any questions or need additional information. You may reach me at (319) 821-1197, or by sending an email to wggoodman@yahoo.com.

**Respectfully submitted,
William G. Goodman**

**William G. "Bill" Goodman
Advisor, Wapsie Squadron 473
Service Officer, Wapsie Post 473
Oxford Junction, Iowa**

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