



Reports to the

Department

Executive

Committee

To: American Legion Department of Iowa

6 October 2023

From: Brian D. Ring Sr
Membership

Subject: Membership Department of Iowa

Welcome Legionnaire

On 20 July 2023, Commander Elliot, Tim McLaughlin and I went to the Iowa Veterans Home in Marshalltown, to assist in a Membership Rally. They added 18 New members.

27-30 September 2023 Our Commander, Adjutant I and a few of our District Commanders attended the National Membership Workshop in Indianapolis. 22 September the Commander Elliot, Adjutant Derner and I met with Dan Seehafer candidate for National Commander. He and his staff presented us with a Department goal of 35,204 for 2024 membership year. He also emphasized that our Department work hard on our Post 729 list.

On 5 August 2023, Helped at Camp Dodge on Retirement Information Day, we talked with several Guard retiree and several Enlisted members. We collected 12 new members for our efforts. A good day.

On 14 August 2023, worked the booth at Iowa Fair Veterans Day, we talked with several Veterans and collected 5 new members, even a Vet from Texas.

On 19 August 2023, Department Membership meeting was held, we discussed what we talked with candidate for National Commander Dan Seehafer and his push to work on Post 729.

1. We passed the National goal on to the District Membership chairs and their District Commanders, each had to distribute 126 members per District.
2. We discussed the Department Commanders incentive. Have your dues paid by 31 December 2023 and your name will be added to a drawing. On 8 January 2024, 8 member's names will be drawn and receive \$250. Each.
3. We discussed an incentive for the Post who reach 100% by 1 May 2024. They will be entered into a drawing and 6 Post will receive \$500. each for hitting 100% membership.

Also on 19 August worked a booth in Mineola Ia. Had " Be the One" information out on the table and talked with several people about what the American is do/ working on in Veterans suicide.

On 22 September 2023, email was sent to the Membership committee, explaining that we did not get the National Vice Commander for 15-18 November 2023. I asked for their opinion and a vote on canceling the NCV Tour in November, vote was unanimous to cancel.

District/Membership Watch and Department Unity award:

1. 17 November 2023, 1600 (4pm) will be the cut off for membership turn in
2. 20 November 2023, Ann will pull Membership numbers for Legion and SAL, Auxiliary can't pull their Membership until after 1300 (1pm). Ann will add all numbers to a spread sheet.
3. Announcement of winners will be late 20 November or 21 November 2023.
- 4.

Membership is a TEAM effort; it takes all of us. Every Blue cap in every Post is on the Membership Team.

Brian D. Ring Sr.

Membership

402-670-2168

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Sons of The American Legion
Department of Iowa DEC Meeting
October 10, 2023

The Detachment of Iowa re-elected James Lastovta as its Commander at the Detachment Convention on July 15, 2023 in Des Moines, Iowa.

The Sons membership has started coming in. Current membership is 154 of 4914. Which is 31.38%. Membership is slow coming in due to National has not sent out the first renewal notice. We currently have 6 Squadrons at 100%, unfortunately we have 62 with goose eggs.

During 2023 Detachment Convention the Detachment approved \$540 for Marshalltown Veterans Home Post 737 for membership and approved \$500 for the Legacy Scholarship Fund.

Iowa Veterans has sent a letter stating they are not going to continue with the employee day care center and are going to refund the \$6700 that the Detachment has sent them. Some of that money was supposed to be used for a second exercise machine.

The Detachment will discuss it at their meeting on October 29.

Respectfully submitted

Randy L. Freel

Department S.A.L. Advisor

Legion Riders Committee Report – Fall DEC
October 2023

In 2023, the Legion Riders have seen an expansion beyond all expectations. Chapters are forming in Dows and Pella, Farmington and Goldfield, and there are more inquiries beyond that. I attribute that to each of you here, and to the Legion command staff of the last 2 years. As I move into my 3rd year as Riders Chair, I've known that I have both the support and the encouragement to do that needs to be done to succeed.

The 2023 Department Legacy Ride encompassed Riders from all across the state. 6 of the 9 Districts brought their finds to Convention. We took those funds to National Convention where we presented Chairman Clark and Commander Triolia with \$17,378.00.

Your Iowa Riders continue to raise both awareness and support to the Veterans Emergency Fund. I'm proud to say that the Riders have found a purpose. Recently a call was put out for a logo and in one week's time I was able to send several submissions to Department. The chosen design was a professional submission free of charge. Unique and bold, with a single star in motion, it is fitting for the Legion Riders.

I mentioned in June that Department Leadership Training hosted 8 Legion Riders. The interest generated in that announcement has been such that I'm certain there will be Riders attending in 2024. While on the topic of Leadership Training, I was chosen to represent Department at National American Legion College next month. I'm looking forward to the experience and the knowledge that I will receive, as well as the comradery of being part of the class of 2023 for the rest of my Legion career.

Now what would DEC be without my bragging a little about individual Chapters?

My own Chapter, Ames Riders, Post 37 continues to fundraise for their Wreaths Across America project at Ames Cemetery. Their WAA committee is made up of volunteers from all 3 families and has included Ontario Cemetery as well as Ames Municipal Cemetery bringing the wreath count to over 1800.

Waukee Riders, Post 737 held their 13th annual Toy Run event. Each year they set out to help their community and this year raising \$1500 on this one event that will go towards the sponsoring of local Military families struggling at Christmas.

The Le Mars Riders Chapter 241 were gifted with a donation from TCC Verizon for \$10,000 to help the Chapter serve local veterans in need. They also held its annual fundraiser, called The Healing Run. This event was extremely well attended by area Riders. The event also included a silent auction of items donated by area businesses and the Riders themselves. Partnering with the Sons of the American Legion Squadron 241 of Le Mars who provided the meal at the end of the ride, the total NET income from this event was just under \$9,000. Disbursement of these funds has already begun. The Chapter rode to Sioux City and presented gas cards to a Navy vet who is undergoing dialysis and has limited funds, as well as providing funds to care for Service dogs of veterans attending a free local picnic.

Farnhamville Riders took part in the Dayton Rodeo parade, and a Waukee Rider organized the Riders inclusion in the State Fair Parade. Riders are part of the committee in Marion that organizes the annual Military Veterans Ball. The Stuart Riders have filled a roster for a golf outing being held tomorrow to help fund their post, Manly Riders continue to hold dinners for their post.

Together, we've stood countless flag lines and honored our veterans and comrades with escorts and processions. We do this as a part of the Legion Family, made up of Legionnaires, Auxiliary, and SAL, that come together under the banner of American Legion Riders.

Thank you,
Respectfully submitted,
Cliff Barker
Chairman, Department of Iowa Legion Riders Committee

The dates for the Oratorical Contest have been set and are as follows:

Local Contests completed by Dec.3,2023

County Contests completed by Dec.17,2023

District Contests completed by Jan. 7,2024

(top 2 contestants may advance to the Area Contest)

Area Contests completed by Jan. 21,2024

PLEASE NOTE: These contests DON'T have to take place on the completion dates (Sundays). They may be held any day prior to that date!!!!

DEPARTMENT FINALS

The 2024 Department Contest will be held on Sunday, February 4, 2024 at 8:00 AM at the Des Moines Airport Holiday Inn Conference Center.

NATIONAL FINALS

The 2024 National Finals will be held May 17-19 in Hillsdale, Michigan, at Hillsdale College. Quarterfinal and semifinal contests are scheduled for Saturday, May 18 with the finals scheduled for Sunday, May 19.

We have flyers available on the Iowa Legion website that you may print off and put on bulletin boards in the schools or around the community. Also some pamphlets and brochures are available. If need be, contact Eric at Headquarters and he will mail some to you, (eric@ialegion.org).

I have an Oratorical Zoom meeting with the District Chairs for Oct.17 at 6:30PM. We will cover the procedures used in getting contestants and any questions on how the program is run. Also start planning where your contest will be held and lining up the volunteers you will need to function properly. We need to get the ball rolling " NOW" and find these students to act on this great opportunity for scholarships.

Let's get into the schools anyway possible, teachers, administration, counselors, or parents. Let everyone know this is available to all High School Students. Also, if you have Home Schools, DO NOT overlook those. They have many students that will work hard for this opportunity.

I'm very much looking forward to a good year for this program and if we work hard together it will be a GREAT ONE.

If there are any questions, I will address them at this time, if not this concludes my report.

For God and Country

Bob Waugh

Dept. Oratorical Chairman

Ladies and Gentleman, the Junior Shooting Sports Season for 2023 & 2024 has begun.

The schedule for the intramural matches between the teams in the first district has been organized and is on the sports your calendar for the Swisher Sharpshooters

The Swisher sharpshooters have completed their rifle safety course for the new Shooters coming into the program, and they have started practicing with the team

On September 12 and 13, the Swisher sharpshooters hosted the disabled veteran's golf clinic veterans for an opportunity to shoot the air rifles. The disabled veteran's golf clinic is what used to be known as the Tee Tournament that is Hosted at Riverside Golf Resort, and Casino. The sharpshooters partnered with the organizers of this event to provide an additional activity for these veterans and hosted 40 veterans at post 671 in Swisher over the two days. The veterans were brought in two buses from Riverside each day containing 10 disabled veterans and escorts.

It was indeed an honor to allow these disabled veterans to relive a bit of their past before their disability took over their lives. Their gratitude and smiles just warmed our hearts One of our shooter's moms said she felt so humbled by the experience

Eric Less our programs director has scheduled the AL Department of Iowa State Championship Match for March 23 2024 with setup on the 22 starting around noon at the Miller Armory

If you would like to house your team in the barracks on Friday night, please let Eric know.

Anyone needing help starting a shooting program do not hesitate to give me a call or Eric Less at Dept.

If you have a new team and wish to compete at the state match you must be registered with the Department of Iowa before December 31, 2023

If you have any questions In the Ames area you can call Steve Neal and on the west side of the state you can call Gary Whipple. These gentlemen are also on the committee

Remember working in this youth program requires anyone wanting to be involved to fill out a background check and take the child safety course each year. After you pass, the background check, Eric will send you a link to the child safety course that must be passed. You can get to the background check by going to https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A_ialegion.org&d=DwIFaQ&c=euGZstcaTDIlvimEN8b7jXrwqOf-v5A_CdpgnVfiiMM&r=OulUtWIWgevuFEfXKPyaeZqS7oWK-shla_Sqjr10Gjc&m=0xuY4nhjTdl--8XsdzfjAjpgRUIJ6BGMLDFCkYTdLQtlZeS1Y_RD6BsYBh--73i&s=264Ehly9ch-KgzE3DgEJgeFgeB8ogup22nXeVk55li4&e= and go to the Junior Shooting Sports Program scroll down and pick out a background check and answer all the questions

There are additional programs that you can involve your shooters in to help keep them from getting bored with just practicing. Again; please don't hesitate to ask about these programs

That's all for now

Gary Palas

JSSP Chairman

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission Report

The VA &R Commission met on Thursday 12 October Via ZOOM to go over the duties and responsibilities of the respective committees. Previously along with the invitation they were provided copies of:

1. Committee responsibilities
2. Members and contact info plus a excel file .
3. Budget and reimbursement docs.
4. Auxiliary contacts for hospital visits.

All of the above was covered in the meeting

Respectfully Submitted

Tim McLaughlin

VA&R Commission Chair

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

Benefits Committee

I recently attended the Fall School of the Iowa Association of County Commissioners and Veterans Service Officers, held in Des Moines. 78 counties attended the training.

I presented to the Val Likens Service Award to Elizabeth Ledvina. She serves Tama County and is an outstanding service officer.

Training sessions that I attended focused on establishing better communication with the VA Regional Officer and establishing more outreach activities with the counties. Secretary of State, Paul Pate, and his staff discussed the Safe at Home project, designed to protect the identity of certain individuals, and the upcoming city and school elections. He encouraged everyone to vote and discussed election security in Iowa. A group from Camp Dodge presented information about transitioning, retirement, family programs and Military Family Life Counseling. ESGR State Chairman, Becky Coady, explained ESGR (Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve) and the services provided to employers and service members to keep all parties in USERRA compliance.

With the implementation of the PACT Act, I am told that many claims for DIC (Dependency Indemnity Compensation) have been filed by widows of Marines who were stationed at Camp Lejeune. Even though the veteran may have never filed or was denied, widows may qualify for benefits under the new rules.

The Committee will be accepting applications for the Val Likens Service Award through Mid Winter Conference. If you have an outstanding service officer, please nominate them.

Our recommendation for filing compensation and pension claims is to use County Veterans Service Officers to organize and file the claim. Gather evidence on the local level, and then forward the claim to Shane and his staff at the American Legion Service Office in the Federal Building. We feel this makes the best use of available services.

Jerry Hansen

Chairman

VA&R Commission, Benefits Committee

American Legion Department of Iowa

15 October 2023

Subject: Health Administration Committee

From: Janet Grass, Chair Person

“BE THE ONE” program is starting to be utilized in the Iowa City Regional local medical centers. The request from Cesar Emano, Iowa City Regional Volunteer coordinator, is to have volunteers come to the CBOC sites, to prepare and serve coffee to veterans as they attend their appointments. The interaction between the volunteer and veteran is to listen and/or give an opportunity to discuss “what can I do for you” insights.

Also discussed with local veterans as they were attending appointments. The veterans were willing to express personal concerns about services and locations provided. Many were older and needed assistance with the appointment.

The **HEARING** MOBILE UNIT providing local CBOC service is totally a hardship for many to gain entrance. (METAL FOLD DOWN STAIRS) no ramp available. The Unit schedule is for many different locations and appointments are limited for access. During inclement weather unit can be out of service indefinite at times. Appointments are cancelled and need to be rescheduled. Worse happening for the veteran if hearing aide breaks it is MAILED in and veteran can be without device well over a week.

Veteran basic **Vision** services are limited in many of CBOC locations as well. The veteran may need simple adjustments or if glasses need to be replaced for minor vision change the veteran goes to Iowa City VA Regional. This can be a hardship in traveling long way when a local visit could have met the requirement.

The final service at the CBOC location super helpful for the older veterans would be **PODIATRY** to ensure proactive services to care for their hands and feet.

The recommendation the VA PROPOSAL - create a travel team of MEDICAL Personnel for each concern (Hearing, Vision, Podiatry). Assign and travel to FOUR CBOC sites with the fifth day to review the services provided, team meeting and create next schedule.

Health Administration will conduct Person VISITS to medical sites prior to Mid-Winter Conference to meet with their administration.

Any Questions? Comments? Concerns?

Submitted by your Health Administration Chair Janet Grass

Legislative Commission Report, Oct 28, 2023 to the DEC

The Legislative Commission met on Sept 20, 2023 via Zoom.

Attending was Randy Johnson, John Derner, Dave Rehbein, Don DeKock, Nick Lucy, Dwight Dinkla, Elizabeth Ledvina, Dennis Soppe, Nick Laning, Threase Harms, and Stan Elliott.

Quick recap on the Dept of Iowa priorities for last year. We had a highly successful year at the statehouse!

The USS Iowa was a one time allocation last year and **was not** on the American Legion priority list for this session.

Legislative wins:

- More than doubled the Military Property Tax Exemption to \$4,000 off valuation. First increase since 1974!
- \$200,000 or 10% increase to the Military Homeownership Program to \$2.2M annually. This will allow 40 more veterans access to the program each year.
- Through conversations with the liaison of the Judicial Branch, we learned a second Veterans Treatment Court has been opened in Council Bluffs. This is in addition to the one in Woodbury County.
- Opposed a couple of pieces of legislation that did not advance

Overall, we had a very positive 2023 for the American Legion agenda at the Capitol.

The Dept of Iowa Legislative Priorities for 2023-2024 are as follows:

- Maintain Funding for the Military Homeownership Program. The Military Service Member Home Ownership Assistance Program was established to assist with home purchases for current and former military service members who are or have served on active duty. The program helps qualified individuals purchase a home in Iowa through matching grants.
- Veterans Treatment Courts. We will continue to urge the State of Iowa to establish and expand more Veteran Treatment Courts.
- Funding for Dept Service Officers at the Federal Building - Provide ongoing annual appropriations to the state headquarters of the nationally accredited Veterans Service Organizations to assist in the operation of Service Offices for the purpose of providing training, office support and salaries for Service Officers.
- Training Funds for County VSOs.

Respectfully Submitted,

Randy Johnson

Chairman, Legislative Commission

Legislative Commission

Chair

Member

Member

Ex-Officio

Commander Appointee

National Appointment - ex officio

5 Randy Johnson

6 Don DeKock

2 Nick Lucy

3 Elizabeth Ledvina

Advocacy Strategies

7 *Dwight Dinkla*



Marketing Commission

Fall DEC meeting report

October 28, 2023, 1 p.m.

Marketing is still working to complete its strategic plan for 2024. We will focus on four areas. We feel that the commission need to focus on a good starting point so we have a good base to grow from.

- **Value of Membership** EARN members by showcasing the real value of joining for the long term.
Show our Veterans what we do for them.
- **Be The One Awareness & Fundraising**
SHOUT the message that it is OK to not be OK. RAISE money for the programs that support this mission.
Look for ways to promote at large venues.
- **NEW Revenue Sources**
EXPAND our revenue sources by embracing technology and partnerships. Grant writer, New sponsors, and new ways of fundraising
- **Find and Identify Opportunities**
Iowa Legionnaire to be self-supporting.
Boys state
Financial support Service Office

Up coming Events

November 10 At Jordon Creek Scheels flag exchange

November 11 1-6pm Coralville mall Scheels flag exchange

November 11 8 am – 12pm 5K stars and stripes color run

The Commission really encourages District to form their own marketing committees. Districts that have started this will be asked to become Consultants of the commission. The commission will be fundraising so we can purchase merchandise for events. This would be small trinket items promoting the American Legion programs. We are trying to get a small booth for the Concert in Ames and for the NASCAR race in Newton.

Promotions and Revenue

corporate sponsorships – strategy to focus on bigger hitters rather than somewhat “shotgun” approach we had been using previously

- **Green State Credit Union**
 - Sponsorship agreement signed and cash received \$5k for 2022 and have verbally committed for 2023
 - Invoice for \$5k being sent week of 9/25/23
- **Scheels**
 - Scheels and Legion working together on veteran’s day and Flag Day events at the Jordan Creek locations. Likely this will lead to a larger sponsorship relationship in 2023. \$5k for 2022.
 - Sam Johnson coordinating similar events at the Coralville location
 - For 2024, Scheels Jordan Creek will sponsor the following opportunities
 - American Legion Baseball
 - Hat Sponsor (\$1,000)
 - Junior Shooting Sports
 - Welcome Gift Sponsor (\$1,000)
 - Firefighter and Law Enforcement Officer of the Year
 - Captain Level (\$1,000)
 - Hawkeyes Boys State
 - Shirt Sponsor (\$2,500)
 - Total\$5,500 cash
 - Charlie to also check with Minnesota – Mike Maxma (- mmaxa@mnlegion.org)

- **Iowa Lottery**
 - Had face to face meeting with Mary Neubauer, VP External Affairs 11/1/22. Discussed sponsorship of mid winter conference and annual convention (\$45k budget) as well as advertising. Also shared lower-level sponsorship opportunities for the conference/convention such as keynote speaker, entertainment, etc.
 - John discussed their ability to present to the members at the events and have a table to engage directly.
 - John and Mary discussed several legislative initiatives that involve both the Legion as well as Iowa Lottery, so there is an excellent existing relationship.
 - Mary discussed her fear that if they directly support the Legion that other organizations (VFW, etc.) would come "knocking" so she had to be careful with how they engaged with us.
 - There was a clear desire to do something. John's idea is to have them sponsor a happy hour or luncheon when the county VSOs come in for training that way its across the board. John to get in touch with Mary on the Capitol Hill Day
 - Mary responded that they want to sponsor lanyards at the midwinter and convention, they have a new lead (Kassandra Trenary) and the lead has yet to respond. Will continue to follow-up
 - Sent follow-up email to Kassandra on 7/24/23 and again on 7/31/23 and 9/22/23
- **Hyvee**
 - Bob says he has made contact with Hyvee and got connected to the person running Hyvee Homefront!
 - We will submit the charitable giving request in the name of Boys State (Mike Vaughn and Charlie to work on that)
 - But will also request a face to face meeting with Hyvee to discuss Hyvee Homefront
- **Other second tier prospects**
 - **John Deere, Caseys, Kum & Go, Kwik Star, Brownells, Bass Pro Shops, Indian Motorcycles/Polaris**

Grants

- Grant writer hired, Trace Hoekstra, Kitchen Sink Communications
- Kickoff call was held 10/25/22 to establish the goals and timelines
 - The team has a survey to complete on where key organizational information resides, how quickly it can be located and if it doesn't exist what needs to be developed.
- Two additional meetings were held. Trace has generated a package with leads that we need to contact and some additional follow-on actions we need to complete for the grant packages. That all came through in December and Bob and Charlie divided up the grant leads but they have not been sent out yet.
- Project stalled when I was pulled into Boys State Strategy work and the Finance Officer work. Will get it moving again this winter

External Marketing

- Iheartradio (Charlie)
 - Library of canned PSA's from National shared with Taylor J from iheartmedia
 - Seven (7) 30 second PSAs sent to Taylor for use on 107.5 KISS FM, KXNO, WHO, and The Bus. She said once they get "voiced" they will get into the rotation.
 - Several were aired prior to veterans day
 - Need to regularly follow-up before major holidays
- Victory 360
 - Boys State mailer has gone out (to former boys staters), delay in form of addresses that got "kicked back" for validation
 - Should have some data this fall
 - 5k road race idea
 - Date is chose, 11/11/23 at Racoon River
 - V360 will do everything, say we will need ~20-25 volunteers on the day of the race
 - Can start sign-ups and if no traction we could just pull the plug
 - Survey of Iowa Legionnaires
 - Try to assess the reasons why Iowa is underperforming in Fundraising

- Wisconsin and California have done it recently with beneficial results
 - Joe willing to do it for free
 - Field of flags idea
 - MN is apparently doing this in “Legion Town”
 - People purchase a flag for \$100 and it is flown in this field
 - They are listed as a “sponsor” and get a certificate
- Advertising
 - Sent inquiries to USAA and Navy Federal Credit Union for advertising in Legionnaire and e-newsletter.
 - Iowa newspaper association
 - Susan Patterson Plank, Executive Director, Iowa Newspaper Association
 - 515-422-9050
 - SPattersonPlank@inanews.com
 - Help figure out advertisers and what we should be charging for legionnaire and e-newsletter
- Simon Conway show – Have been on the show twice now, once for Scheels (flag day), once for veterans day. Its pretty easy to get on, he seems to focus around “holidays”

Goals

1. Self-fund the Legionnaire
2. Fund 4th VSO

Media and Communications

Still needing support for information for E-newsletter and Social Media. Looking for ways to support Department staff on the Iowa Legionnaire. Also looking to help scrub the mailing list of the Iowa Legionnaire.

Liaison Committee Report

Candidates for Department Offices (Updated 07/25/2023):

1st District No Candidate

2nd District No Candidate

3rd District No Candidate

4th District No Candidate

5th District Darrin Alderson Candidate for Department Commander 2025-2026

6th District No Candidate

7th District Brian Ring, Sr Candidate for Department Commander 2024-2025

8th District No Candidate

9th District No Candidate

American Legion of Iowa Foundation

In the last issue of the Iowa Legionnaire, we told you about two of the larger grants that the Foundation made from our last annual meeting in May. They both went to help very deserving people, one group at the Iowa Veterans Home and the other to the outstanding citizen from Iowa Girls State in 2022 who is now well into her first semester at the US Naval Academy.

This time we want to tell you what has been done to help other veterans with grants. Of course, you know that the Iowa Foundation has made grants to several colleges across Iowa to help veterans and veteran families enrolled there with their college expenses. Each year that results in scholarships for 20-25 veterans or family members.

Foundation grants have gone to help other veterans also. Standdown events in both Cedar Rapids and Des Moines were assisted with Foundation funds.

Funds were also granted to Iowa Legal Aid (ILA) to help with the work they do assisting veterans with legal problems. While the veteran's privacy is paramount, ILA told us several times they were able to help veterans.

In 2022, ILA was able to help 239 veterans and family members totaling 412 people stabilize their housing situation. These cases were spread all across the state of Iowa from Woodbury County to Scott County. Several cases, characterized by ILA as an unusually high number, were referred to the Iowa Civil Rights Commission as possible discrimination cases. With the Foundation's financial assistance to get help for these veterans, we may likely have been helping them through the standdowns. Funding the ILA was able to help provide a more permanent solution.

In 2023, ILA closed 699 cases involving veterans. Of these, half involved housing issues with another quarter being consumer matters such as bankruptcy and debt restructuring and 1/10 being family law cases. With help from ILA, those veterans would have been left alone to handle these problems. Without funding the Iowa Foundation, ILA would not have been able to help many of them.

Remember, the Iowa Foundation provides help all across the spectrum of veterans and children. As Christmas approaches a gift to the Iowa Foundation will be a gift to those veterans, their families, and other children and families in need. Be generous, your help is needed.

To: American Legion Department of Iowa

11 October 2023

From: Brian D. Ring Sr.
President Boys State Board

Subject: Boys State

Welcome Legionnaires

On 12 September 2023, the Boys State Committee held a meeting by zoom. Items discussed were:

1. Updating Post participation/ breakdown by District
2. How many registered against number of attendees
3. Update Facebook and Web site
4. Marketing Videos and reviewing, should be 2 or 3 new short Videos on Web site, small posters are on Web site
5. Need for Boys State to be discussed at District Conferences
6. Request for continuing Marketing Budget
7. Establish Marketing/recruitment committee
8. Pull what we can from other Department programs to advance ours
9. Goal- permeate staff member
10. Goal- improve Jr. councilors recruitment
11. Goal- update Boys State Trust
12. 2023 Operations discussion
 - a. Guard as assistant counselors
 - b. Guard facilities at a different price, could be free
 - c. Food, largest cost, if we cater- we will not be in the kitchens-just dining areas, Guard looking into turning this week into training for Guard cooks?

22-24 September 2023, Programs Director Eric Less, Boys State Director Dave Schafer and I attended the Americanism Conference in Indianapolis. Discussion held were:

1. Insurance, what is covered and what is not, not covered is Transportation, some games, Ninja walls, swimming pools, etc.
2. Read your contracts with Police/Trooper involvement
3. Read contracts with your Venue (colleges)
4. National Judge Advocate, does not read your contracts for you, he asked "what determines what you can and can't do" it depends on where you hold Boys State and the contract, background checks need to be done every year.

5. SAMSUNG—1995 Started with \$5 million, have given \$7.2 million in scholarship, Fund still has \$7.2 million as of 2023, 2400 students have received scholarship's,
6. Hampden Sydney College- (all boys school) if you get excepted, the will grant \$80,000 scholarship if you attended Boys State.

When a Post talks to boys about attending Boys State, don't ask "Who is interested", but make it more of a privilege/honor to be considered. "Would you like to put your name in for consideration?" We want to let the kids know we have something to offer them that no one else can offer. This can also work when talking to School Personnel. We can give your kids opportunities that are unique to Boys State and don't want to "cheat" the kids in your school by not giving them a chance to participate.

The above is from Director Dave Schaeffer.

Brian D. Ring Sr.
President Boys State Board
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