



THE AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF IOWA

IOWA LEGIONNAIRE &

Auxiliary Communiqué

An Official Publication of The American Legion, Department of Iowa: March 2023

2023 Department Oratorical Contest

The Department of Iowa's High School Oratorical Contest was held Sunday, February 12, 2023, the last day of the Mid-Winter Conference. Three outstanding contestants advanced from the local post to the main stage at the Department Final in front of a full room and panel of 7 judges. Each contestant gave a prepared and then was assigned a 3–5-minute topic based on the US Constitution. First place was awarded to Tori Paga of Hiawatha, Iowa. Tori is a Sophomore at John F. Kennedy High School. The title of her prepared oration is Democracy Means the People's Power. Tori is the daughter of Raghavendra and Tarakeshwari Paga. She will compete in the National Oratorical Contest on April 21st in Indianapolis for a chance to win a large scholarship of \$25,000 and the title of national champion. Tori is sponsored by Hiawatha American Legion Post #735 in Hiawatha. Congratulations Tori and best of luck. Runner-up honors go to Charlie, a MOC-Floyd Valley High School Junior, and an Orange City resident sponsored by



Pressman-Kosters American Legion Post #329 in Orange City. Third place finish went to Karli Roth, a sophomore from Earlham Iowa. Karli is homeschooled and is sponsored by Waukee American Legion Post #737 Waukee, IA. In the history of the National Oratorical Contest, Iowa has had 3 champions: Jennifer Demmon (1986), Max Miller (2000), and Patrick Junker (2019). Again, best of luck Tori, and congratulations on the Department

title. We wish to thank all the volunteers who have given their time from the local to Department contests. We are grateful for your involvement and hope you will consider participating again in the Fall. It isn't too late to begin the conversation in your community regarding this program and contest. If you would like to follow along with National go to: www.legion.org/oratorical.



A special thanks to some of the team pictured above, we couldn't have done it without you!

National Convention August 25 - August 31, 2023 Charlotte, NC

Delegates and alternates to the National Convention are elected at District Spring Conferences. If you are not elected as a delegate or alternate at the District Spring Conference, you may still attend the National Convention as a guest.

Registration forms for delegates alternates, and guests to the National Convention will be available at District Spring Conferences.

Reservations must be made through Department Headquarters. All registration forms will be available in late March and the registration deadline is June 15, 2023.

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

DEADLINES & DATES

- March 4**
Boys State Board Meeting – 10 AM HQ
- March 11**
3rd District Conference – Marshalltown
- March 18**
JSSP Department Match - Johnston
- March 25**
7th District Conference – Shenandoah
8th District Conference - Whittemore
- April 1**
9th District Conference – Wall Lake
Baseball Rosters & Forms Due
Boys State Delegate Registration Due
Boys State Post Refund Requests Due
Educator of the Year Due
- April 8**
5th District Conference – Mount Ayr
- April 15**
2nd District Conference – Farley
4th District Conference - Osage
6th District Conference – Ankeny
Post Data Reports Due
- April 21-23**
National Oratorical Contest – Indianapolis
- April 29**
1st District Conference - Swisher
- April 30**
Department Media Awards Due
SAL Conference – Des Moines
- May 7-11**
National Spring Meetings
– Indianapolis, Indiana
- May 14**
Mother's Day
- May 15**
Summer Legionnaire Articles Due
Peace Officers Memorial Day
- May 19**
Foundation Annual Meeting
10 AM Department Headquarters
- May 20**
Armed Forces Day
- May 29**
Memorial Day
Dept. Offices Closed
- June 2**
District Commander Orientation
- June 2-4**
Department Leadership School – Des Moines
- June 15**
Consolidated Post Reports Due
Legionnaire of the Year Nominations are due
National Convention Registration Due



The American Legion, Department of Iowa

Mailing: 720 Lyon St., Des Moines, IA 50309
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

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

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2022-2023 District Commanders

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9th	Chris Weinreich	Pierson ninthdistrict@ialegion.org

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Melissa Kauzlarich, Josey Pester, Kevin Brown
Heather Owens, Shane Pankonen

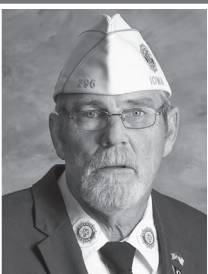
Department Headquarters Staff Directory

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Department Commander
Randy Johnson

Hello Iowa Legion Family,
It's time to update you on some happenings in The AMERICAN Legion around the country and right here in Iowa. The AMERICAN Legion is working hard for our Veterans and their families.

Our Nationals Legislative Agenda is robust. Support our Afghan Allies, Military Quality of Life, Pay the Coast Guard, Protect the American Flag, Mental Health & Suicide Prevention, VA Healthcare Modernization, Protect Veterans from Predatory Actors and Guard & Reserve GI Bill Parity. We got the Pact Act passed - now we want PACT Act Implementation & Oversight. They're busy in DC.

Commander Troiolas number 1 priority is the BeTheOne initiative to end the stigma preventing people asking for help, bring awareness to veteran suicides and in turn prevent them. If you're not aware of the initiative I encourage you to go to BeTheOne.org and learn more. The bottom line is if it's Commander Troiolas number 1 priority, we should be listening and promoting. It's up to you to "BeTheOne".

Right here in Iowa we're pushing Veterans Property Tax Exemption increase, Military Homeownership Assistance, demanding we fix the Veterans Trust Fund and getting more money for our County Commissions of VA.

Our Dept Marketing Team is working overtime. Along with our leadership, our Marketing Team is the face of our organization. It's our Marketing Team's job to reach out to prospects, customers, investors and our communities, while understanding who our customers are, how we fit into their market, and most important where to reach the right people. They're doing that. But like everything else, the process is slow. These are hard times for every non-profit - for most businesses. We must keep moving forward.

Our Dept Legislative Team is getting it done. Whether it's Veterans Property Tax Exemption increase, Military Homeownership Assistance, demanding we fix the Veterans Trust Fund or getting more money for our County Commissions of VA - it's all getting done. They have heard us at the State House, and they have listened.

The Legion Family is moving in the right direction. If you're part of a strong Legion Family, chances are 100% that you belong to Legion Families that have strong Programs, good community support because we're letting the public know what we're doing, and you have Post growth in your membership. The AMERICAN "Legion" continues to support our veterans like we have for the past 103 years, but even better today as we grow stronger as an AMERICAN Legion Family.

We had a very good showing at Mid Winter Conference. The crowd was great, the meetings were productive and the camaraderie was, as always unmatched. We never fail each other.

In closing, I'd like you to do something sometime after this read. This is nothing new. Credit PNC Rehbein and others. I'd like you to ask yourself Why you belong to The AMERICAN Legion. Why did you join and Why do you stay in The AMERICAN Legion Family? Think about it. There's answers there. Those answers will probably tell you Why you do what you do. There's no wrong answers. It's your answers and if you keep them in the back of your mind, our overall results will improve our Legion Family. It's just that simple.

Thank you all for a fantastic first half of our year. Now let's go out and finish the second half even better.

For God and Country
Together Everybody Achieves More T.E.A.M.
Commander Randy



Department Adjutant
John A. Derner

Spring will soon be upon us and I think of all the great activities which I enjoy every spring – golf, camping, planting flowers, baseball, and District Spring Conferences. I hope many of you will enjoy some of the same activities, especially the District Conferences.

The Spring District Conferences are among the most important meetings we have in The American Legion. Decisions will be made which impact all of us as Legionnaires. I know it may not sound as exciting as spring baseball, but much of what occurs at spring conferences is noteworthy.

1. Department Convention Committees: The Convention Committees at Department Convention recommend action for the Convention on the resolutions presented to the convention as well as other business assigned to them. Much of the deliberation of the Department Convention occurs in the Convention Committees. Each district must assign one delegate to each of the Convention Committees. Those assignments are made at the Spring District Conference. If you intend to have an impact on the decisions of the Department Convention, one of the most effective ways to do that is by being assigned to a Convention Committee at your District Spring Conference.
2. National Convention Delegates & Alternates: The delegates and alternates to the National Convention are elected at the District Spring Conferences and ratified at the Department Convention. This year the convention will be held in Charlotte, North Carolina.
3. Department Leadership School: Each year the Department of Iowa offers a leadership school to instruct and educate District and Department leaders and future leaders of The American Legion. The Department covers the cost of six (6) attendees per district, and those selections are made at the District Spring Conference.
4. District Officer Elections: District Officers are elected at the District Spring Conferences for the coming year (July-June). Becoming a District officer provides a unique leadership opportunity for those Legionnaires up to the challenge.
5. District Chair Appointments: Those wishing to have a positive impact on our programs and policies are encouraged to seek appointments to District positions for our American Legion programs.
6. Officer & Committee Reports: Do you simply want to learn more about The American Legion? Then come to a District Spring Conference to hear reports from Department and National officers, Department Headquarters staff members, Department Service Office staff members, and Department and District Commission and Committee Chairs. All will help you gain knowledge of American Legion programs, policies and positions.

Anyone seeking to learn more about The American Legion or wanting to get more involved is encouraged to attend your District Spring Conference. Not only will you leave with a better understanding of the organization, there is a good possibility you will make some new friends as well. I look forward to seeing you there.



**Department
Service Officer
Shane Pankonen**

I have received many questions regarding memorial and burial benefits. Arranging a funeral for a loved one can be difficult and emotionally draining. It is best to be prepared as much as possible ahead of time, but this is not always possible. It helps to know what type of assistance the Department of Veterans Affairs can provide with memorial and burial benefits for the Veteran and his or her family. Most Veterans are eligible for memorial and burial benefits through the Department of Veterans Affairs

(VA). If eligible, the VA may assist with rites, flags, headstones, markers, funeral expenses, or plot allowance, and transportation to a cemetery. The spouse or dependents are eligible for a government headstone or marker, only if they are buried in a national or state cemetery. First, the funeral cost must be been paid in full, the person who paid for the funeral expenses can submit a request for reimbursement by submitting VA Form 21P-530. There is a 2-year time limit in which the family needs to file for burial reimbursement. If the application is not submitted correctly, the VA will notify you to correct and resubmit within 1 year. The Department of Defense can assist the family with military honors, consisting of folding and presentation of the United States flag, and the playing of Taps.

Here is a list of forms to help assist in the planning of burial benefits:
VA 40-130 Claim for Standard Government Headstone or Marker.
VA 40-1330M Claim for Government Medallion for Placement in Private Cemetery.
VA 21-2008, Application for United States Flag for Burial Purposes
VA 10-2065 Funeral Arrangements.
VA 40-0247 Presidential Memorial Certificates.

If any questions arise regarding burial or memorial benefits, please contact the service office @ 515-323-7532, or @ shane.pankonen@va.gov.

Membership

Congratulations to our 8 winners of the Department Membership Incentive 2022.

To be eligible you had to have your membership paid by 31 December 2022, names were drawn on 6 January 2023. Congratulations to

Alan Schnieder	Post 13	Dennis Prewitt	Post 125
Micheal Kellis	Post 374	Richard Klinefelter	Post 127
Harold Daugherty	Post 298	Roger Reed	Post 346
Lavern Lidtka	Post 294	James Allfree	

Each received a check for \$250.00 from the Department Membership fund.

- Our Membership Mission is not done.
Our next GOAL is 100%, we are 5,000 memberships away.
What can Members do to help achieve this goal?
1. *Renew your Annual Membership*
We need your Membership to help our Veteran programs
 2. *RECRUIT one new member*
IOWA is 2nd in the Nation with 832 new members, Good job, keep promoting The American Legion and our Children and Youth programs
 3. *ANNUAL members to become LIFE/PUFL members*
You would not need to worry about making a payment again
 4. *Get unpaid members to RENEW*
Many do not realize they need to pay, still receiving magazines and paper
 5. *Get Lapsed members to REJOIN*
Give them a call, talk with them, see what's going on, BE the ONE

As T.E.A.M. IOWA we can get to our 100% goal, 37,040 is the Membership number we need.

We Thank You for your Time, your Service, and what you do for the American Legion Family.

Your Membership Team
Brian D. Ring Sr
Jennifer Rehbein

Liaison Committee

A quick note from the Department Liaison.
All Endorsement Forms for individuals running for any/all Department Office.
NEED to be VOTED on, signed/dated by your Post, County, and District Commander and Adjutant.
The final signature will be the District Liaison Chair.
At the Liaison Committee meeting, we will be reviewing a new endorsement form to be used by the Department of Iowa.
Please ensure your District Adjutant sends in an up-to-date Liaison Roster.

Brian D. Ring Sr.
Liaison Chair
402-670-2168
BrianRing.A.Legion@outlook.com

American Legion of Iowa Foundation

As anyone who has followed the stock market and the economy in the last year, this has not been known as a growth year in many ways. The principal of the Foundation has seen a decline of 7.9% of the 12 months of 2022. That is a substantial amount but please remember the financial philosophy is relatively conservative, 60% bonds and 40% equities. That leaves us in a good position to be ready when the economic growth returns.

In other ways, the Foundation has seen growth. Donations for the 2022 year were up just over 7.25% from 2021. That is good news. It tells us that our donors truly believe in the Foundation's mission and are not just fair-weather donors.

The following donors were recognized at the opening session during 2023 Mid-Winter Conference. Those donors that have reached recognition levers are:

- Eternal Flame – total donations \$100**
Bert & Dawn Aberle, Harold & Carolyn Berglund, Marvin Carr, Doug Honse
- Supporter Award – total donations above \$1,000**
Dick Meiners, Steve & July Neal, Eugene Poppe
- Sentinel Award – total donations above \$2,000**
Ron Struble family; Deann Struble represented the family.
- Sterling Award – total donations above \$3,000**
Thomas Hartsock
- Statesman Award – total donations above \$4,000**
Steve & Kim Dixon, Jim and Lu Rolfes
Scott & Colette Ford
- Sponsor Award – total donations above \$5,000**
Scott & Colette Ford
Dan McClure, Ken Rochholz

The Foundation Annual Meeting will be held Friday, May 19, 2023. With that we will begin the process for soliciting grant requests. If there is a nonprofit in your district that could utilize a grant from the Foundation in the area of Americanism/Children & Youth, Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation or Community Service, please put them in contact with the Foundation's portion of the Department webpage.

We thank you for your continued support of the Foundation and look forward to a productive year.

David Rehbein
President

Mid-Winter Sweepstakes Winners

During the close of the Mid-Winter, winners of the sweepstakes were announced. Congratulations to the following individuals.

1st \$5,000.00 Daryl L Drake Ames, IA
2nd. \$2,000.00 Guy Kenniker Dubuque, IA
3rd. \$1,000.00 Robert L Schnug Monroe, IA
4th \$500.00 Edward C Mertens Ely, IA
5th. \$500.00 Bill K Lynch Swisher, IA
6th \$500.00 Steve Shults Sioux City, IA
7th \$500.00 James F McQueen Farragut, IA

Department Headquarters has notified the winners and will arrange receipt of their prize. Thank you to all who entered the contest.



1st District Commander Gerald Bennett

My fellow Legionaries.

It was a very interesting Mid-Winter conference. I got a lot out of it. Very informative, as always, and as always, great to see everyone!

One presentation, that really hit home, was the Life

Cycle of a Post. Which is also the Life Cycle of an Organization.

The lifeblood of a Post, or Organization, is Membership, and folks need to go to the Blood Bank. We need members. Renewals are great, but that's not enough.

We're still falling behind, at an alarming rate, and that's scary. How hard is it to get new members? Not hard, if you're actively trying, carry some applications, and talk to people. Folks, it's a numbers game. The more you talk to the better chance you must sign up a new

member. We must strike up the conversation though. They're not going to come to look us up.

What's everyone's post-goal? 102%? I challenge, everyone to sign up one member, this year. Just one! If everyone signed up, just one member, we'd double our membership. One member, each, can't be that hard to do if we give it some effort.

So, go out there and get that one member.

For God and Country



2nd District Commander Jerry Becker

Greetings to all second district Legion families. Well, I just got back from the mid-winter conference held at the airport Holiday Inn and conference center in Des Moines. It

was a great conference with lots of good information being presented. Presentation on post organizational Life cycle, Be one with Buddy checks, Assist suicide prevention training, Mission Membership Briefing, Communicate your Legion story, and engage with Local Elected Officials.

We had presentations from Girl's National Senators along with the Boy's National Senators. They each talked about Boys and Girls Nation and Boys & Girls State and how it has affected them. If you have not got anyone signed up for Boys or Girls State, you have until April first to sign someone up. I would



like to congratulate Thanvee Paga (Tori) for winning 1st place in the oratorical contest. Tori will now compete in the National Contest in Indianapolis, Indiana in April. Tori was sponsored by post 735 Hiawatha, Iowa

On a lighter note, 2nd district spring conference will be held April 14-15 in Farley, Iowa. Hosted by Epworth post 650 and Farley Post 656. If you did not receive a copy of the call to conference let me know and I will see that you get one.

Remember to register for the convention on July 14-16 at the Holiday Inn & conference center.

The second district Legion Family Golf outing will be held August 12, 2023, at Little Bear Country Club

Wyoming, Iowa hosted by Oxford Junction post 473. Open to all Legion families from district two (American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, Sons of the American Legion, and Legion Riders). For more information call Curtis Thornhill's post at 474 (563) 570-0414.

Have had calls on State Bowling Tournament for this year. There will be no tournament this year. But next year it will be held in Eldora, Iowa.

I would like to ask you for help. The second district is in second place in membership 88.16% to 88.11% with your help we can move into 1st place. There are quite a few 729 already paid for 2023, contact them and ask them to transfer to your post. If you need help finding the 729 members let me know and I will help you. Thanks to those that helped at the district two hospitality room at midwinter.

My challenge to you this quarter is to do some Buddy Checks.

BE THE ONE



3rd District Commander Jeff Large

Greetings Legionnaires!

I hope this finds you all healthy and eager for Spring! I want to encourage all who read this to initiate your involvement with the

American Legion. No one is asking you to run for office, simply make an effort in attending your District Spring Conference and the Department Convention. These are fantastic opportunities to collaborate with fellow Veterans and gain a brief education on matters that impact Iowa Veterans.

Congratulations to Department Membership Drawing winner Richard Klienfelter, Post 127, and 3rd District Membership Drawing Winner David Girsch, Post 138. Iowa has always prided itself on our organization as being some of the most active Veterans this nation has ever seen. Continue that illustrious history and help the Legion grow stronger with membership. The 3rd District Spring Conference is set for March

11th. The department's newest addition, the Charles Horton Post 739 at the Iowa Veterans Home in Marshalltown is eager to connect with fellow Veterans and will play host this year.

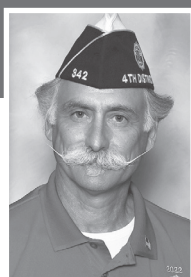
This Post is made up predominately of Residence of the IVH who are on an extremely fixed income. Donations and contributions of any kind would do a lot of good. Be it a canteen item like toiletries or a straight cash donation directly to the post to sponsor a member. All are welcome and all are needed.

3rd district has been working on 3 post closing due to low membership at the post we was able to get everyone transferred into another post close to their home town, The American legion had a drawing for everyone that was paid in full and 3rd district also had a drawing for members that was paid in full by the end of December The Department drawing winner for the 3rd District was Richard Klienfelter post 127 from Gladbrook And the winner from the 3rd district was David Girsch from post 138 from Waterloo, the 3rd district is looking for Member from the District to step up and help with the 3rd districts leadership to

keep the district going if anyone is interested please reach out to your post commander and they can reach out to us, in the last year we have added one new charter to the district and they are post 739 Charles Horton post located at the Iowa veterans home if anyone is interested in helping the veterans at that post they are in need of a lot things to get the post up and running and if any is interested in sponsoring a veteran or want to send them a donation that would be great all proceeds is going to pay the veterans that live at the veterans home membership first and then they purchase items needed for the post they have a face book page or you can reach out to them at

Charles Horton Post 739
1301 Summit St.
Marshalltown Iowa 50158
or Facebook Charles Horton post 739

March 11, 2023, The 3rd District will be having the Spring conference at the Iowa veterans home post 739 hosting hope to see a lot of you there.



4th District Commander Fritz Kies

Hello again to all my fellow Legionnaires of Northeast Iowa.

I would like to begin by thanking the Osage Post for hosting the 4th District Spring Conference

scheduled for Saturday, April 15th, so put it on your calendars now. I hope to see many posts in attendance.

Thank you to all the posts that participated in the Fifth Grade Flag Essay Contest this year. Our District winners were 1st place, sponsored by Protivin Post 605 – Lennex Clubb; 2nd place, sponsored by Cresco

Post 135 – Samantha Villanueva; and 3rd place from Garnavillo Post 723 – Kacie Hatcher. This is a fun and educational/patriotic program that I personally enjoy doing, especially when I go to the school to present the awards to the winners. If your post doesn't yet participate in, please contact me, I'll be glad to help get you started for next year's contest.

Thanks go out to all the adjutants and membership chairs that have put in a lot of time with getting our 4th District membership numbers in. Don't stop now, please be sure to get those final renewals in. There are also the 729 posts to pick from, if you didn't get the list for your county, please let me or your area vice commander know. Some important submissions coming up: Biennial report to the Iowa

Secretary of State by the end of March, it's done online now; Membership Report to the Department in April; and Federal Tax IRS Form 990-N in May.

If your post has had a change in the commander or adjutant position, it is important to get that communicated to our district adjutant Art Sullivan (sullivan@acegroup.cc) and to the Department by submitting the Post Officer form. It can be found on the Department website, or if you need a hard copy, contact me (319-493-1848) or Art and we'll see that you get one.

For those interested, the 4th District has a Facebook page now: "Iowa 4th District American Legion". More to come on that – thanks to Brandon Parcel our NW zone VC.



5th District Commander Samuel Blumer

Hello Fifth District Family,

I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and New Year. As the first part of the year is quickly passing by, membership is still our priority.

Call or visit the unrenewed, work on getting 729 transfers, and recruit new members.

Be The One is still a priority for both the national and department Commanders.

Be the one that picks up the phone and listens, be the one that if you someone struggling, go talk with them. Suicide can be prevented, sometimes all it

takes is someone to listen, be that.

Our spring conference is in Mt Ayr on April 8, hope to see a good crowd there. And don't forget, we are a TEAM, it takes everyone to succeed.



6th District Commander Tim McLaughlin

6th District Legionnaires and Legion family - As I write this I have just returned from the Mid Winter Conference. While there talking to my fellow Legionnaires I heard a lot of stories all about veterans serving

veterans. Whether it was taking meals to veterans' families, taking veterans to the VA, paying the dues for those in the nursing home, or just visiting them in the nursing homes this is what we do. The problem is

we don't share what we do with veterans, not in the Legion; if we did it might be easier to recruit them to join us in our mission.

As of today we still have over 700 members in the 6th district that have not renewed. Why? Don't they feel welcome, has no one contacted them? Do we know if they need help, do they feel alone, or not welcome, do they not know what the post is involved in? All of your memberships are important. Do they and you know that their memberships pay for the 5 personnel in the service office? This weekend I talked to a number of our members who had been significantly helped with their claims. That help would not be available without

our memberships paying the cost of the service office. The other reason is to continue to work for the legislation needed to help our Veterans.

I have to commend 4 posts that have reached 100% of their membership goal - Post 99 Minburn, post 464 Adel, Post 689 Runnells, and Post 233 Cambridge, they are doing great. The vast majority are over 85% but with over 700 not yet renewed we still have a job to do.

The Consolidated Post Report is the last thing I need to mention, every post does something, write it up, and submit it. I am proud of what we have accomplished, let's take credit for it.



7th District Commander Amy Muse

"Good day,

7th District is quickly approaching the busiest season of the membership year...Spring! For all that attended Mid-Winter Conference, it was great

seeing and speaking to each and every one of you. Department has had a great turnout this year! As I reflect on the last few months, I do have a heavy heart. AS an SW IA native, I want nothing more than to see

our little part of Iowa succeed. I realize now more than ever, veterans in this part of Iowa really must fight for our earned benefits not just for us, but for the generations to come. I don't see much of that tenacity and fight left in many Posts in the District. Some Posts are THRIVING! Please transfer to an active Post. If you are in the so-called "twilight years", I hope that you feel you are supported and appreciated...not forgotten. I don't feel enough can be said about the power of comradeship and purpose. Our District Spring Conference will begin Friday, March 24 at 4:30 pm at the Shenandoah CBOC and a reception will be held afterward at the Shenandoah Legion, (golf course).

The District Executive Committee will meet from 8:00 am-9:00 am with registration not opening until 10:00 am at the Shenandoah Legion. There will be a fine catered luncheon costing well over the \$10.00 registration fee at noon. We'll finish the meeting and conduct some Post training. All Post Officers and Adjutants are HIGHLY encouraged to attend. Elections are also being held, so please submit your Post Endorsements for Officer Elections. Department Commander Randy Johnson will be in attendance, so we want to show him the best of SW IA.



8th District Commander Ken Fields

8th District Legionnaires,

It's time for Spring. We will be holding our Spring Conference in Whittemore, IA hosted by Seely-Walsh Post #425 on Saturday March 25th, 2023, the gavel drops at 0900.

Please send a representative/s from your post to attend the 8th District Spring Conference.

I would like to congratulate the Russell Brasel American Legion Post #444 winning the Robert W. Colflesh Trophy which is presented each year to the district in 1st place on Veterans Day and to the Post within that District which has obtained the highest percentage of their growth goal on Veterans Day. Outstanding job on membership Post 444!

The 8th District is appealing to all posts to inquire within their American Legion membership to find a person that is interested in serving at the District level. We have six positions for Vice Commanders that we

would like to fill by the Department Convention. The Vice Commanders roll is to aid the District Commander with the challenges of communication to the posts in the District. If we have a District Vice Commander that assists with no more than 2 or 3 counties it will enable more information to the post and will build cooperation of local post with other posts within the area. The 8th District covers a large area in Iowa, and it is of paramount importance that we crack this nut and garner new participation throughout the 8th District. Please inquire at your monthly post business meeting.



9th District Commander Chris Weinreich

Synergy – Cambridge Dictionary definition: "the combined power of a group of things when they are working together that is greater than the total power achieved by each working separately". Our

Legion Family ought to represent this. The Legion, Auxiliary, Sons, and Riders all work for a common goal. We all know the history of the branches of our family. In our district over the past years, four legion rider groups have emerged from local posts. All riders are legionnaires first and are further defined by their love

of vehicles with less than four wheels! They are colorful dynamic additions to causes that veterans value most. Patriotism, honor, remembrance, and TEAMwork are but a few. Commander Johnson has said something about that: Together Everyone Achieves More! At Mid-Winter I announced a new district position. It is District Riders Director. This Legionnaire is responsible for bringing the four groups together and becoming part of a statewide effort to unify legion riders into an effective cohesive element supporting The American Legion by participation in local, area, and statewide events. It is my hope that groups in our district will always assist the Legion, the auxiliary, and the Sons to enable Iowa to once again "Lead the Legion." That tagline used several years ago adorned things like

shirts and baseball caps. It was true then because Iowa had the most veterans enrolled in the Legion. Times have changed. These days we are better served by what we can accomplish as a combined group rather than just large numbers of members, although we still need many hands to accomplish the work that we set out for ourselves. Just a word or two about membership. The district is currently in sixth place statewide; Iowa is just a few members from surpassing North Dakota to again capture the title of Number One. Five posts have received congratulatory letters for making target. I would love to send more. Several posts are only a few members short of the target. We need to finish the job by renewing and reinstating as many members as possible before July.

Foundation Grants

www.ialegion.org/iafoundation

As the charitable entity of the Iowa Department of The American Legion, the Foundation was organized as a mechanism for The American Legion to provide financial assistance to promote Americanism, Youth Programs, Veterans Rehabilitation, and community service in the State of Iowa.

Since 1979, over \$2.5 million has been contributed in support of Veterans assistance, educational programs, patriotic endeavors and children and youth programs.

Applications for Foundation grants must be submitted online no later than April 15th of each calendar year. Application procedures can be found on The American Legion of Iowa website.

THE AMERICAN LEGION OF IOWA		
Statement of Financial Position		
June 30,		
	2021	2022
Assets		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$46,878	\$1,129
Restricted Cash	533,724	577,390
Certificates of Deposit - Restricted	160,531	160,733
Receivables		
Interest	42	39
Other	12,033	13,498
Prepaid Insurance	3,029	3,017
Prepaid Expenses	11,107	12,713
Land, at Cost	46,610	46,610
Buildings and Equipment, at Cost, Less Accumulated		
Depreciation of: 2021 - \$553,711 and 2020 - \$542,485	98,313	72,839
Total Assets	\$912,267	\$887,968
Liabilities		
Accounts Payable		
Trade	\$8,894	\$14,504
Due to Districts, Other Entities, and Other Funds	40,670	40,692
Other	64,244	62,098
Deferred Revenue	10,640	--
Accrued Expenses		
Compensated Absences	40,149	31,079
Loan Payable	--	--
Total Liabilities	164,597	148,373
Net Assets (Deficit)		
Unrestricted	474,737	464,880
Temporarily Restricted	272,933	274,715
Total Net Assets	747,670	739,595
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$912,267	\$887,968
Statement of Activities and Changes in Net Assets		
Year Ended June 30,		
	2021	2022
Revenue		
Dues	\$561,385	\$554,195
Investment Income	598	199
Fundraising Income	196,380	195,197
Legion Insurance Trust	43,629	86,745
USAA Insurance	23,600	23,514
Other		
Contributions	7,710	25,602
PPP Loan Forgiveness	78,785	--
Miscellaneous	11,213	29,539
Total Revenue	922,700	914,991
Expenses		
Program Services		
Service Office	\$268,997	\$207,520
Meetings and Conventions	20,306	28,123
Commissions	57,486	69,728
Iowa Legionnaire	58,526	48,245
Department/National Convention Fund Expense	--	--
Building Projects Fund	18,848	--
Vets of Valor	5,291	21,513
Total Program Services	429,454	375,129
Fundraising	97,472	110,732
Supporting Services		
General Administration	435,802	437,205
Total Expenses	962,728	923,066
Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets	(40,028)	(8,075)
Transfer of Net Assets		
--	--	--
Net Assets - Beginning of Year	787,698	747,670
Net Assets - End of Year	\$747,670	\$739,595

AMERICAN LEGION BOYS STATE		
Statements of Financial Position		
September 30,		
	2021	2022
Assets		
Assets		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$96,489	\$66,629
Prepaid Expense	3,567	490
Total Assets	\$100,056	\$67,119
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	\$3,368	\$15,472
Scholarships Payable	2,750	2,250
Total Liabilities	6,118	17,722
Net Assets		
Unrestricted	83,738	40,197
Temporarily Restricted	10,200	9,200
Total Net Assets	93,938	49,397
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$100,056	\$67,119

Statements of Activities and Changes in Net Assets		
Years Ended September 30,		
	2021	2022
Revenue		
Fees	\$56,000	\$62,750
Donations	11,715	1,897
Sales - Special Merchandise	2,402	2,260
Miscellaneous	875	1,250
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	--	--
Total Revenue	70,992	68,157
Expenses		
Program Expenses		
Camp		
Mess	38,497	43,622
Camp Personnel	5,625	5,279
Supplies	3,913	9,595
Rent	22,917	29,390
Printing	209	1,001
Insurance	6,234	5,890
Directors and Speakers	28	1,995
Meeting Expense	2,023	1,287
Postage Expense	127	462
Photos and CDs	1,660	2,090
Scholarships and Awards	2,250	1,863
Bank Charges	32	1
Special Purchases	307	4,897
Miscellaneous	539	600
Total Program Expenses	84,361	107,972
Supporting Services		
Professionals Fees	3,981	4,726
Total Expenses	88,342	112,698
Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets	(17,350)	(44,541)
Net Asstets at Beginning of Year	111,288	93,938
Net Assets at End of Year	\$93,938	\$49,397

AMERICAN LEGION OF IOWA FOUNDATION		
Balance Sheets		
September 30,		
	2021	2022
Assets		
Assets		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$117,720	\$89,994
Receivable - Rlated Party	--	--
Prepaid Expense	1,502	--
Investments	2,215,255	1,984,809
Investments - Rummel Trust	59,137	50,401
Investments - 40 & 8 Trust	58,227	49,626
Investments - Keith Baker Scholarship Fund	27,219	23,199
Total Assets	\$2,479,060	\$2,198,029
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Liabilities		
Payables		
Accounts Payable	\$4,957	\$8,379
Awards Payable	1,100	2,500
Scholarships Payable	39,750	48,750
Total Liabilities	45,807	59,629
Net Assets		
Unrestricted	2,288,670	2,015,174
Restricted	144,583	123,226
Total Net Assets	2,433,253	2,138,400
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$2,479,060	\$2,198,029
Statement of Activities and Changes in Net Assets		
Years Ended September 30,		
	2021	2022
Revenues		
Contributions	\$36,461	\$41,518
Interest and Dividend Income	54,660	54,787
Gain on Sale of Investments	75,032	105,566
Scholarship and Award Expiration	17,645	13,100
Net Assets Released from Restriction	--	--
Total Revenues	183,798	214,971
Awards and Scholarships	100,565	115,857
Operating Expenses		
Trustee Fee	14,366	13,976
Audit and Income Tax Return	6,067	6,242
Insurance	1,649	1,711
Meeting Expense	436	2,221
Supplies	8,427	4,654
Total Operating Expenses	30,945	28,804
Change in Net Assets Before Unrealized Gain (Loss)	52,288	70,310
Net Unrealized Gain (Loss) on Investments	199,082	(365,163)
Change in Net Assets	251,370	(294,853)
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	2,181,883	2,433,253
Net Assets at End of Year	\$2,433,253	\$2,138,400

For a full copy of this audit, you may request one through The Department of Iowa’s headquarters at 1-800-365-8387 or email info@ialegion.org. Further questions may be directed towards the Department Adjutant.

IRS Form 990

Form 990 is the IRS’ primary tool for gathering information about tax-exempt organizations, educating organizations about tax law requirements and promoting compliance. Organizations also use the Form 990 to share information with the public about their programs. Please be sure to complete Form 990 for your post before the deadline of 5/15.



SPRING 2023

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

DEPARTMENT OF IOWA

Auxiliary Communique

SERVING VETERANS, THEIR FAMILIES AND THEIR COMMUNITIES



PAGE 7



Auxiliary President Jayne Soppe

WOW doesn't come close to describing our Mid Winter Conference! When our family works TOGETHER we are truly awesome! We had interesting and unique reports from our Chairman, a FUNTASTIC time for our Jr's and Srs – Jr's had movie nite with popcorn and candy, rock painting, cookie decorating, learning about flag etiquette and folding and our emblem and they got dictionaries and some painted poppy paintings that were better than some of our Sr paintings! We raised money for Jr. Camp, Girls State and started a raffle for our Merit awards – thank you DEC for permission for it all. We had music, hospitality rooms and most of all hearing about, from and for, our Veterans. Thank you to everyone for their hard work making this happen! We presented "BIG" checks to National AEF Chr Kelly Elliot from our Dept and to Laurel from IVH for the FIRST Vibroacoustic chair of my Project. Thanks to ALL OF YOU and your generosity, we are about \$800 away from donating a second chair to IVH- You are ALL amazing AND OUR Veterans will appreciate it! Crystal and I will be making a trip to the Veterans Home soon to present them with the Tie blankets that were our service project at Mid Winter – this will keep about 50 of our veterans warm the rest of the winter – THANK YOU! I look forward to seeing everyone at Spring Conferences, meetings, celebrations and on the road as weather permits as we continue to do great things – TOGETHER!



Auxiliary Vice President Mary Sypherd

Hello American Legion Family; Well Mid Winter is over. It was great seeing everyone. I was really excited to see so many new faces. And I just can't say enough about the attendance of juniors.

I am looking forward to spring conferences.

I hope you have taken the opportunity to take the ALA academy classes. There is even a class for juniors.

For those who were not able to attend Mid Winter I am asking for your EXTRA special member of the year. That one person who goes above and beyond, always willing to lend a helping hand, lead projects, provide transportation, assist with schools and churches, always ready to support Veterans, military and their families. Remember they cannot have held an office higher than unit president and be current in their dues. Send an essay of 1000 words or less stating their accomplishments including their name, unit, county and if you have photos please include them. Those will need to be sent to your district president by April 30th, then the district presidents will send their nominees to me no later than May 15th so I can choose the winner to be forwarded to national.

Don't forget your year end reports due to the department chairs by April 30th.

In closing; breathe in wisdom, reach out to people, be kind, and work TOGETHER as an American Legion Family.



Central Division National Vice President Ann Rehbein

Hello again, everyone! By the time this is published, do you realize MyLegion will have been out for almost 2 years? Yes! 2 years in April. Time for a quick review of what you can and can't do. Note: The list does NOT include all features. Just some that I think are useful.

Can do:

-Process membership – This is faster than sending it to Department since you'll get members entered into the system right from home or your Post!

-Update member records – Anything from an address to a name, and so much more, keeping member information up-to-date.

-Add multiple demographics to a member's profile – For example, does the member have multiple war eras they served in? Both can be listed, too.

-Print member cards – People with Post access can go to a member's profile and print their card. Will it be the same? No, since it's on standard paper. But is it a printed card? YES!

-Find 729 members in your area either by zip code or distance from a zip code.

-Print an up-to-date roster for your Post.

Can't do: Note: Again, not an extensive list, but some stuff to be aware of.

-Update Post Officers – That's still done through a form sent to Department.

-Find weekly membership report – Posted weekly to our department website.

-Find forms Department needs – Most of these are available as a PDF Fillable form through the Department's Resources page. Just find the right category and select the form!

Even if you can't do everything in MyLegion, it still is a fast way to keep track of and update your membership for your Post.

Until next time! Happy spring!

**WE'RE
ALL IN THIS
TOGETHER.**

Thanks to Our Team & Community!

DO IT *for*
Your Community



1st District President
Barbara Lastovka

Congratulations to 1st District on winning the Unity Award. It's a Legion Family effort by the Posts, Units and Squadrons. Friday night at Mid-Winter conference we received

this Award. Jerry Bennett- District Commander, Barb Lastovka-First District President, and Ken Rochholz District SAL Advisor. 1st District Auxiliary at Mid-Winter was in last place in membership.

District Conferences will be starting next month. First District will be at the Swisher Legion Post- Swisher, Iowa. Date April 29,2023 and starting at 9:00 am.

My project I choose Jr. Camp and a Merit Award to a Jr Camp goer with best essay why they want to attend. Any essays send to Barb Lastovka 1172 Y Ave Amana, Iowa 52203. Also I am raffling a red, white and blue quilt pay for Jr. Camp.

\$1 each. or 6 for \$5.

Hope to see you at the 1st district conference.



2nd District President
Carol Mooney

Hello 2nd District!

I hope that the new year is off to a great start for all of you. Mid-winter has past us by already and you all know what that means. Now we start

our county meeting and soon it will be time for our Spring Conference. And with the Spring Conference comes elections.

Please keep paying your membership dues as we need to keep this great organization strong for the future and those our JR member now.

Thank you



3rd District President
Sandy Scallon

Our Third District Conference will be held on March 11, 2023, at the Iowa Veterans Home. Legion will meet at IVH Malloy Building LRC and Auxiliary will meet at the Whitehill Building located at 1301 Summit

provided.

There are many important dates to remember:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
| 1. Third District conference | March 11 |
| 2. Junior Camp | June 4 – 9 |
| 3. Girls State | June 18 – 23 |
| 4. Department State Convention | July 13 – 16 |

This past weekend I was able to attend the 2023 Mid-Winter Conference. This is such a wonderful experience and I wish everyone had the opportunity to attend.

The speakers on Friday night were wonderful and I was able to gather a lot of great information.

The Auxiliary included our Junior members and it was fun to watch them participate in some of the sessions. They tied blankets for the Iowa Veterans Home, painted

rocks, frosted and sold cookies for junior camp. They are great sales ladies. What a wonderful experience I have had meeting and visiting with different people from all over the state of Iowa. It's a memory I will always remember.

Please remember to honor our Veterans who lost their lives while serving in the military as Memorial Day approaches.

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, for past, present and future Veterans who have and will protect our great Nation!



4th District President
Dee Onken

My year's experiences of attending District Presidents Orientation, membership packet distributions, installation, DEC meetings, hosting my first District workshop, National Convention, and attending District

with many really kind and fun people.

I wish to thank everyone who's donated to both my projects. —1) \$20 challenge for each unit goes to IVH, Marshalltown, for their Monetary Donation Special Activities Account for residents is over my goal. 2) District Merit Awards keep them coming.

I'm really proud how our District has been working really hard together on Memberships and putting us up there at 1st place as of Mid-Winter Conference!! Let's help Department President Jayne keep in 1st and meet her goal of making 100% for our District objective total! PLEASE keep sending them in! Working TOGETHER we can make this happen!!

District Spring Conference is at the Osage American Legion, 504 Main St., on Saturday, April 15th. I'm looking forward to see if we can increase our attendance! Don't forget we're having a Silent Auction with all funds going to Department President Jayne's projects. Please bring some unique items or items you would be willing to bid on will be greatly appreciated!!

Please note Department Convention dates are now July 13-16, 2023.

This year's experiences helped me putting new pieces of the puzzle together as we all work together for 4th District.



5th District President
Jacki Bolen

As District 5 moves into the second half of our year I have witnessed many of our Units stepping up to the cause and making positive changes to fulfill our mission.

family to promote the amazing programs we have. If you aren't doing these things I encourage you to give it a try. It works!

I have had many Units welcome me into their Post homes by inviting me to join them. I have enjoyed sharing information and building friendships that I may not have had the opportunity to do without that invitation. If I haven't been to your Unit and you would like a visit please reach out.

Join us at our spring conference on April 8th in Mount

Ayr. We will once again have lots of information available. Please be sure your Unit is represented.

We will have our election of officers on April 8th as well. If you or a member you know has an interest in becoming an officer just let me know. I will direct you to our nominating committee.

Let's get our spring and summer plans in motion. We have lots of good things to do!!

Community involved fundraising, using social media to showcase our Units, including new members and getting them involved and working together as a





6th District President
Mary Jo McLaughlin

Greetings

Congratulations to the units making goal and those trying. Reach out to members who never come to activities, let them know you care about them and thank them for honoring our veterans by renewing their membership. Ask them to give you

names of others who could be a member. Units making goal do many activities and have fun. Units without post homes can keep going. Conduct business through emails or zoom meetings. All units need to embrace technology and reach the younger generation. They have energy and new ideas – work together. Write down what has been done in the past and then using talents from everyone accomplish more. Keep your units positive, friendly

and embrace changes. In April each member needs to write down what they have done this year, hours We want everyone's work counted for our reports and money spent, for our veterans, and youth. Give these to your unit president. Our Spring Conference will be on April 15th in the FFA building, DMACC Ankeny Campus, 212/213. Everyone is invited. Junior Spring Conference is March 26 at the Story City Post.



7th District President
Patti Rolf

Hello from southwest Iowa! It was so nice to see everyone at Mid-Winter Conference over the weekend. The weekend was filled with many fun activities, committee reports and of course meeting new friends. Our district was well represented in the poppy contest, which was organized by our own Judy Ring, Poppy chair. On Saturday, the Junior ALA members were kept busy by decorating Valentine cookies, rock painting and

learning about the ALA emblem and flag folding. At the end of their session, they sang a lively song to the whole group! If you haven't been to conference before, you need to try it sometimes. Spring Conference is right around the corner. Shenandoah will be the host for the weekend, and we are planning for a fun day. This is a very important meeting as we will be electing new officers for the upcoming year. Please remember to nominate a Unit Member of the Year and submit it to me by March 15thThe District Member of the Year will be announced on March 25th!! Please take the time to recognize your members who go above and beyond and are active in

your unit and community. We all have them, and I look forward to reading about your awesome members. Spring conference will start with a hospitality room on March 24, at the Shenandoah Country Club, at 5:30. If you are need overnight accommodations, I have rooms reserved at the Shenandoah Inn & Suite, please call 712-246-3000. Saturday morning, Executive meeting at 8:30, Registration 9am and meeting starts at 9:30. I hope to see you there!! I appreciate all the good work!



8th District President
Janice Dornath

Hello from District 8 As I write this, I just came from a funeral for one of our fellow auxiliary sisters she will be missed by all of us. Mid Winter was a very enjoyable weekend. It was fun

seeing all our fellow Auxiliary sisters again and visiting with them. Next up is the Spring Conference which will be in Whitmore on the 25th of March. I hope to see you all there. This will be the time when we will be electing new officers for the coming year. Hope to see you on the 25th in Whitmore.



9th District President
Marjorie Brunsting

Hello again, 9th District! We just returned from the Mid-Winter Conference in Des Moines and it was a great learning experience. Ideas were shared as all the different

districts could get together and learn from each other. This is what our conferences are all about: we learn about the mission of the ALA and also get new ideas from other members. I hope to see most of you at our Spring Conference on April 1 in Wall Lake, Iowa. Details will be in the Korn Kernels or from your Unit/ County Presidents. This long winter is coming to an end, lets make plans for county meetings, poppy

distribution, recruiting new members and make this another successful year!

Children and Youth

Great things are being done in Iowa for Children & Youth! Hats & gloves have been donated; books are being read & crafts are being made! We've had a couple submissions for the Youth Hero & Good Deed awards. Remember to continue submitting the things you are doing in your community & nominating those in your communities for awards! Please submit to me at werethejohnsons882020@gmail.com



Chaplain's Corner

In my travels in Arkansas, I saw this prayer in a Veteran's memorial park that struck my heart. It reminded me to pray for our Veterans every day.

I HAVE DONE THINGS
That haunt me at night
SO YOU CAN SLEEP IN PEACE
I HAVE BEEN AWAY
From my family a long time
SO THAT YOURS CAN BE SAFE
I HAVE SACRIFICED
A lot in my life
SO THAT YOU MAY LIVE FREE
I HAVE DONE THESE THINGS
Because I have sworn an Oath
TO MY COUNTRY
And will live by this Oath
UNTIL THE DAY I DIE
Because I am & always will be a
U.S. VETERAN

Remember to send prayers and inspirational poems for President Jayne's book. You can send snail mail or email them to me.

Bless our Veteran's and their families
Connie





COMMUNITY SERVICE

A Challenge to the Entire American Legion Family!

I have teamed up with Wayne Frauenholtz, Legion Community Service Chair, to do a Legion Family wide project. We have a challenge for everyone in the Legion family. Please save your plastic shopping bags and bring them to the 2023 sessions of Junior Camp, Girls State, or Department Convention. Bags can also be dropped off at the Department Office. In fact, a

challenge has been put forth to try to fill the Department President's Office since she doesn't use it! We can only accept clean, dry, shopping bags. No bread or produce bags, please! The collected bags will be recycled and made into benches. We will gift a bench to Drake (Girls State), Iowa Veterans Home, Newton Christian Conference Center (Junior Camp Site), and Airport Holiday Inn. Plaques will be placed on the benches stating who provided them! I think this is a great way to clean up our communities, keep bags out of the landfills, and help spread the word about our American Legion Family.

At Mid-Winter programs fair, I gave a Community Service coupon sheet to Auxiliary members. Fill out the sheet, bring it to Department Convention, receive up to 8 raffle tickets for a chance to win a prize from me. You MUST be in attendance at Convention to win the prize. If you will be attending and need a coupon sheet, please email me.

I know units are doing great community service. PLEASE, send me a report about your community service. The deadline for YEAR END REPORTS is April 15, 2023. Please include the award cover sheet, your narrative, pictures, and media coverage of the event, if any. Attach the Awards cover sheet to the end of year report.

I look forward to receiving your reports in April and your plastic bags at one of the collection sites! See you at convention with your coupon sheets and shopping bags!

My new email is: kjdixon1964@gmail.com

Kim Dixon, ALA Community Service Chair

National Veterans Golden Age Games

Some of you may have already heard that the Central Iowa Veterans Affairs Medical Center and the City of Des Moines have been selected to host the 2023 National Veterans Golden Age Games May 20-25, 2023.

This event is presented annually by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and will host more than 700 veterans who will compete across Central Iowa from Pleasant Hill to West Des Moines. These Olympic-style games allow the veterans ages 55 and older who have enrolled in the VA a chance to maintain "Fitness for Life," the motto of the games. The event offers sports competitions and health education sessions to demonstrate the value that sports, wellness, and fitness provides. It is also a qualifying event for the National Senior Games. Some events will include track and field, swimming, golf, pickleball, pool, shuffleboard, table tennis, and many more. The main venue will be the Iowa Events Center and the three categories of competition are ambulatory, wheelchair, and visually impaired.

There will be a need for donations as well as volunteers for this important event. The closer we get to the event, there will be a site for individuals to sign up as volunteers. The information regarding this will be forthcoming. In the meantime, please do not contact the VA Medical Center regarding the volunteer opportunities. As soon as this information is available, I will be posting follow-up information regarding the volunteer opportunities.

I hope everyone will consider donating as well as volunteering for this important event. Talk to your units and spread the word.

Mary L. Sebben, Chairman
Department VA&R Committee
642 SE Williams Court
Waukee, IA 50263
(515) 250-1363
mlsebben@aol.com



Junior Activities

Mid-Winter conference 2023 was one for the books. Department of Iowa Juniors had an eventful and fun filled weekend where new friends were made and old friends were reunited. Junior members started their weekend with a Pajama Party and Movie night on Friday. They enjoyed popcorn and candy while watching "Sgt. Stubby". On Saturday Junior members joined the Auxiliary session for opening and then learned how to fold an American Flag and the meaning behind each fold with Past Department Commander Jim Kessler and Bob Onkin. They then decorated cookies as a fund raiser for Junior camp. In the afternoon Juniors had the opportunity to decorate large and small rocks with designs of their choosing. Throughout our day we heard from some committee members, learned about the Auxiliary emblem and how to make poppies. We also had brief visits from the National Vice Commander and Department Commander Randy. Finally, Juniors presented Coast to Coast to the Senior Auxiliary Members. To end our weekend together, Junior had cookies for sale during Social time for a donation to Junior Camp. Thank you to all who purchased cookies or made a donation to camp!

I want the Thank President Jayne for allowing the time and space for the Juniors to participate in all their activities, all of the chaperones and speakers that joined us, and the Juniors for making it an all-around great weekend.

Alida Kolthoff, Junior Activities Chairman



American Legion Auxiliary
JUNIORS

We Want You!



MW ALR,
Full House!

Junior Camp: Registration Feb. 15 – April 1, 2023

Don't miss the deadline as Camp is earlier this year, June 4th – 9th, 2023! Registration is now open for Junior Camp. This is for both juniors and councilors. Just go to the American Legion Auxiliary website and click on Forms, scroll down to Junior Camp. Fill out Registration form and medical form and click send. Bring the waiver form to Junior Camp and turn in at Registration. The Waiver Form has to be turned in for junior to attend camp and also participate in the Field Trip on Wednesday. Registration will be from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 4th. A letter will be sent out 2 weeks before camp with details on items to bring. Councilors, you will need to fill our form on line. A background check will be sent to you to fill out. Do so immediately and send, then a Child Safety Course will be sent to read and answer and send immediately. Theses two are time sensitive.

Campers/Glampers Silent Auction

If you missed Mid-Winter Conference, you missed out one the wildest silent auction announcements to date. Junior Camp is having a Campers/Glampers Silent Auction at Department Convention on Friday, July 9th from 11:00 to 7:00p.m. The District President's will have a table set up for their District with items which a camper/ glamper could use. Everyone is invited to bid on items at any table you like. The District President will be given a fishing(bucket) hat at Mid-Winter Conference to accessorize. The District President with the best accessorized fishing hat (everyone will get to vote during Convention) will be given \$50.00 to be used toward their District President's project. Proceeds will go into Junior Camp fund.

Legislative

The legislative program provides information and assistance to help our members advocate. The American Legion Auxiliary supports the public policy positions of the American Legion. We, as American Legion Auxiliary members, can help our Legionnaires by contacting our legislators, hosting legislative gatherings, subscribe to the Legion's legislative updates and action alerts, and review a copy of the legislative advocacy guide. We also need to continue to exercise our rights to free speech and voting.

The following are the priorities of the American Legion's Legislative Agenda for the 118th congress, 1st session (no particular order): Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, VA Healthcare Modernization, PACT ACT: Implementation & Oversight Protect Veterans from Predatory Actors, Concurrent Receipt, Guard & Reserve GI Bill Parity, GI Bill for Honorable Service, Support our Afghan Allies, Military Quality of Life, Pay the Coast Guard, Protect the American Flag.

Thank you to The American Legion for being a resolution- based organization, advocating for nearly 1.6 million U.S. military veterans and servicemembers. One more reason why your impact reports are so important!! Every minute matters!

If you have read this article, please send an email to: ourbusymom1400@aol.com and tell me 1 way you help and your top 3 priorities from the Legion's agenda. Let's see how many people read the articles. I'll be waiting n watching for 100s of emails to flood my inbox.

Membership

What a great Mid-winter we had! So much amazing information shared! Did you take it back and share it with your unit? Remember the 10+3 in 2023. Paid up for Life members. The dues increase is coming for 2024. So \$26 of dues will go to Department and National. Make sure your unit turns in the Data form to change the dues for your unit in time or your unit could lose money. Work together in finding our missing pieces! 3,048 members and we have made Goal! We have 565 New members this year! I hope people will be submitted for our missing piece awards! 3,408 people have paid dues online. If your unit has not enrolled in the American Legion Auxiliary Management Information System (ALAMIS) Please do so now! Don't know how to? Ask a Junior member to help, they can work towards earning a patch for helping! Someone from the membership team will be at every Spring conference, feel free to ask us any question.

Rosemary Lancaster
Membership Chair

Marketing Committee Report

The purpose of the Marketing Committee is to coordinate marketing of our organization for the purpose of awareness and fundraising. Our call to action focuses on members identifying individuals/businesses who could potentially become partners with the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Iowa to further the mission of our organization.

With the assistance of a professional consultant who volunteered her time to educate our committee, facilitate dialogue, and assess our organization from all perspectives. We learned to look back at the history of our organization, look around our industry, as well as look ahead to what our organization could become with the assistance of outside sponsorships and financial support.

We imagined a bullseye with the outer ring being What we do: An Advocate for veterans.

The middle ring being: How we do our mission: Mobilizes veterans' families to support veterans and their families.

The center target is our Why: In support of a better tomorrow for veterans and military families.

We determined the ALA is a lifelong journey of one's membership best represented by our memorial flower, the poppy. The poppy identifies with all aspects of mission delivery and the life and death of our heroes, we honor with our membership.

National Security

WOW, where has the year gone. We are halfway done with the 22-23 year. It is also approaching severe weather time here in Iowa. One part of National Security is disaster and emergency preparedness. How can you help your community, military families, veterans with their emergency plan. Could you partner with Girls Scouts, Boy Scouts, and other community organizations? Have a drive to collect supplies for disaster kits, or to send items to a disaster area. To get ideas go to www.ready.gov/plan Don't forget RED (Remember Everyone Deployed) Friday, wear your red and share awareness. Also work on finding candidates for the Salute to Servicemember awards there is no longer a gender requirement, and they don't have to be from Iowa. You also can nominate more than one person. Reporting: Don't forget that care packages, count towards National Security. Please send me a report, I will submit the unit that has made the most impact for the National Award consideration. Please send reports to me by April 30. This can be mailed or emailed to me. I would like to get a lot of reports, even if you have done one thing please report.. Thank you! TOGETHER we are better!



Baseball

www.ialegion.org/baseball

The American Legion Baseball season will soon be off to its start. Area Tournaments will be played April 22-23 and April 29-30. Locations will be determined soon. The Department Finals is tentatively scheduled to be played on Sunday, July 24th. The location is to be finalized soon. All details will be made available online at www.ialegion.org/baseball as soon as they are finalized.

2023 Player Indemnification Forms (Form 2) for state play are due to Department Headquarters no later than April 1, 2023. Team rosters are due no later than April 1, 2023, on the National's site. Rosters will be certified soon afterwards. There will be no exceptions.

Mandatory background checks and abuse training must be on file. Coaches will be prohibited from coaching if these requirements are not met, and liability will fall on the sponsoring post.

Please be sure to visit the Department's website for details.

2023 Department Media Contest

Media and Communications Committee hosts a Media Contest in four categories. All categories require publication between May 1st through April 30th of the previous year. All categories must be a publication of the Legion, ALA, SAL, or Legion Riders or a joint publication of two or more of the three organizations, at the Post, Unit, County, or District level. There is NO entry fee. Entrants need not be a current member The American Legion Media Alliance (TALMA).

1. Single Sheet (Deadline for submission: April 30)
2. Multiple Sheet (Deadline for submission: April 30)
3. Electronic Newsletter (e-mail) (Deadline for submission: April 30)
4. Website (Deadline for submission: April 30)

All submissions (5 copies), with required documentation as outlined in the entry instructions, must be mailed to:

The American Legion of Iowa

ATTN: Media Contest

720 Lyon St.

Des Moines, Iowa 50309

Categories 3 and 4, require additional electronic submission to programs@ialegion.org, by the April 30 deadline. Rules are available at www.ialegion.org/ialpa.

Awards:

- A. Each category will recognize a First-Place winner, and awarded an appropriate plaque, inscribed with the name of the publication and entrant.
- B. Second Place winners will receive a certificate, inscribed with the name of the publication and entrant.

Detachment of Iowa S.A.L.

Thank you to all that attended the SAL DEC Meeting on Saturday at Mid-Winter. Still need to work on membership and get 4 new squadrons. The Triple Nickel award is not just for one person, it is for all SAL members of Iowa.

This is what everyone needs to do, wear clothing with the SAL emblem to be recognized. Sponsor a program, be involved in the community, and invite families to the Legion Post [maybe a family day]. We the Sons of the American Legion are for the Veterans, Children, and Community.

Last year we did have an increase in squadrons sending their CSR, let's keep this going by getting more squadrons to do so. And having them send a narrative with this report. The best squadron accomplishments will be awarded at Convention and be seen by the Legionnaire.

Next month the Spring District Conferences will start. The first one will be at the Iowa Veterans home for the 3rd District. And so on to the last one is at Swisher April 29 First District.

It began in January SAL members can renew online, but this brings up questions on how the squadron knows when a member renewed and how does squadron receive their share of the dues.

We are SAL Strong

James Lastovka

Detachment Commander



American Legion of Iowa Riders

Greetings Iowa Riders,

Wow... 24 hours ago from when I'm writing this I was cleaning up after the Department ALR meeting.

We had filled the room to standing room only and I couldn't be happier about it. Not only were there over 50 Riders in the room, but we also heard from Commander Randy Johnson, Auxiliary President Jayne Soppe, Department Adjutant John Derner, Department Commander Candidate Stanley Elliott, and National Commander Candidate Jim LaCoursiere for taking the time out of your busy schedules to attend and comment on how and what we're doing. We are indeed a Legion Family.

We covered a lot of topics and I tried to get as much information out there as possible. The TeamUp calendar app is up, it's running, and it's being populated with new events almost daily. The link to the app is pinned to the top of the American Legion Riders of Iowa Facebook page and it will be added to the Riders page on the IA Legion website. I helped at least 3 people add it to their phone Saturday night, and yes, it's free to use. It's easy to get something listed, if your Chapter or Post has an event planned that you feel would be of interest to others then by all means please share it. Send the information, the link, a flyer, whatever you have, to your District Riders Chair. They have the access to add items for you, or you can also send them to me. One bit of advice, if it's only posted to Facebook, it may not be seen for days or even at all. That shouldn't be your only form of outreach for your events. We will all help you, we're a resource and are happy to help.

Speaking of District Chairs, District 4, you have a new Riders Chair, Mike Ross from Osage has stepped in and will do a fine job. Also, District 9's Larry Haitz (Grumpy) from LeMars is your District Chair. If you need their contact info, reach out to your District Commander or email me and I can provide it. These are 1-year terms and are each appointed by that year's District Commander. If you're interested in becoming a Riders Chair let me know and I will pass it on at the convention.

Speaking of Convention, it's Legacy Ride Planning time again. Last year 4 separate Districts brought \$4K to the stage. This year, I would like to see more Districts and more funds. If your Post, Squadron, Unit, or Chapter donates to the Legacy Fund, then let us deliver it to Charlotte. They will still get credit and earn milestone awards. What does a ride need to be? That's up to you. Make it as long, short, easy, and complicated as you like. It's your District Ride, make it personal to you.

We're also waiting for more information on the IndyCar escort for this year. The date should be July 20th, the rest is still TBD. I've been appointed to the Legion Marketing Committee so I'll have a direct line on information as it comes and will do all I can to get it planned and set as soon as I can.

Lastly, the Ames Chapter started a ride a few years ago to try to bring as many riders together as we can. It's simple, just go for a ride. Meet them at the Freedom Rock in Menlo on the Saturday AFTER Memorial Day weekend. This year, June 3rd is the ride. Arrive between 12-1pm, hang out and see the new paint scheme, and go get lunch afterwards. Each year gets bigger, and everyone is welcome of course.

Iowa Riders, we are without a doubt the most visible member of the Legion Family. This summer, 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.

If there is something we can help you with, let me know at alrofiowa@gmail.com

Thank you, everyone, ride safe, ride often, and I'll see everyone at Convention.

Cliff B.

ALR Chairman



2023 American Legion of Iowa Boys State Orientation Schedule

Delegates are encouraged to attend the orientation in their District, however, they may attend ANY orientation that is closer to their home or being held at a more convenient date.
www.ialegion.org/boysstate

2nd District May 7, 2023 (Saturday) 2:00 PM April 23, 2023 (Sunday) 2:00 PM April 30, 2023 (Sunday) 2:00 PM Jim Crowley (414) 630-5689 jimmycrowl588@yahoo.com	Dyersville American Legion Post #137 6th St SE, Dyersville, IA 52040 Marion American Legion Post #298 625 31st St, Marion, IA 52302 DeWitt American Legion Post #238 704 9th Street DeWitt, IA 52742
4th District May 7, 2023 (Sunday) 2:00 PM Jake Blitsch (319) 240-0592 jakpeg@msn.com	West Union American Legion Post #15 103 E Main Street West Union, IA 52175
5th District May 7, 2023 (Sunday) 2:00 PM Don Lane (641) 790-0041 greentrak4@hotmail.com	Oskaloosa American Legion Post #34 302 High Ave E Oskaloosa, IA 52577
6th District April 30, 2023 (Sunday) 1:00 PM Ron Foster (515) 262-1763 rrrdrftrf@prodigy.net	Baldwin – Patterson American Legion Post #274 2211 E 42nd Street Des Moines, IA 50317
8th District April 26, 2023 (Wednesday) 7:00 PM Al Tigges (712) 790-7053 ptigges@hotmail.com	Dedham American Legion Post #20 301 Main St. Dedham, IA 51440 Forest City American Legion Post #121 113 S Clark St. Forest City, IA 50436
9th District April 30, 2023 (Sunday) 1:00 PM May 7, 2023 (Sunday) 3:00 PM Scott Koedem Le Mars, IA 51031 (712) 470-7037 skoedam@hopehaven.org	Spencer American Legion Post #1 Hwy 71 North Spencer Spencer, IA 51301 Le Mars American Legion Post #241 110 Plymouth St W

A face-to-face orientation offers the benefits of meeting other delegates from the same region, meeting some Boys State Counselors or Staff, familiarization with The American Legion through the local post, and asking questions with someone to answer. The Q&A portion benefits the parents in most cases more so than the delegates. We understand that scheduling conflicts are a constant in the life of a family, especially during the school year. If a delegate and/or their parent(s) is/are unable to attend any of the Orientations, either in their district or not, they may access the materials online.

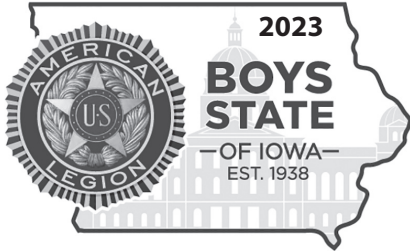
Membership Memo

Hello again, everyone! By the time this is published, do you realize MyLegion will have been out for almost 2 years? Yes! 2 years in April. Time for a quick review of what you can and can't do. Note: The list does NOT include all features. Just some that I think are useful.

- Can do:
- Process membership – This is faster than sending it to Department since you'll get members entered into the system right from home or your Post!
 - Update member records – Anything from an address to a name, and so much more, keeping member information up-to-date.
 - Add multiple demographics to a member's profile – For example, does the member have multiple war eras they served in? Both can be listed, too.
 - Print member cards – People with Post access can go to a member's profile and print their card. Will it be the same? No, since it's on standard paper. But is it a printed card? YES!
 - Find 729 members in your area either by zip code or distance from a zip code.
 - Print an up-to-date roster for your Post.
- Can't do: Note: Again, not an extensive list, but some stuff to be aware of.
- Update Post Officers – That's still done through a form sent to Department.
 - Find weekly membership report – Posted weekly to our department website.
 - Find forms Department needs – Most of these are available as a PDF Fillable form through the Department's Resources page. Just find the right category and select the form!

Ann Haack, Membership Clerk

Welcome Legionnaires Boys State will be held from 11–16 June at Camp Dodge



Reminder to all, it is \$400.00 per attendee starting in 2023. A letter was sent to all Post Adjutants/ Boys State chairs.

We hope to see an attendee from every Post as we have the Best Government/ Americanism course provided consistently every year.

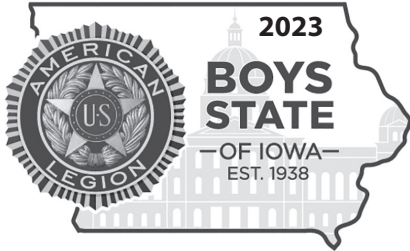
We, the Boys State Board and Committee are diligently working on creating a permanent Boys State position. This individual will be working with our new program, talking with all community schools, Private and Home School programs. Also assisting Posts with any Boys State issues. This position will also help take some of our workloads off Eric Less, Department Programs Director.

*** Counselors are needed, to sign up go to IALegion.org, click on Programs-Children and Youth-slide over to Boys State, scroll down to "Counselor Registration" and follow instructions. I signed up to be a Counselor, come join us and let's have some fun***

I Thank the Boys State Board and Committee and also Eric Less for all the hard work they have put in so far this year for this Great Program. Go T. E. A. M. IOWA.

Brian D. Ring Sr.
Boys State Board President
402-670-2168
BrianRing.A.Legion@outlook.com

2023 Boys State HOT! HOT! HOT!



**PLEASE ASSIST IN RECRUITMENT
AND SPREADING THE WORD! WE
NEED TO GET THE NUMBERS UP!!**

The dates this year have been set for Sunday, June 11 – Friday, June 16, 2023.

Please direct any questions to your Post or District Chairmen concerning the process. Orientation dates are posted in the publication. Also, please note the delegate registration closing deadline.

April 1, 2023 – Post Refund Request Deadline – Requests must be submitted through the online form www.ialegion.org/refunds by 11:59 PM. No exceptions will be honored afterwards.

April 1, 2023 – Delegate Registration Closes – Delegates will not accepted after the deadline.

POST & SQUADRON
EVERLASTING 11/01/2022 –
01/31/2023

SPENCER #1
George J Sperry
COUNCIL BLUFFS #2
J D Runyon
James A Slough
Bruce A Swanson
Wayne Bryant
James E Hayes
William Fischer
Luis Villarreal
OTTUMWA #3
R H Shotten
Ronald R fox
James Daugherty
Jeffrey D Warrior
Frank Wilson
HUBBARD #4
Steven A Brinkmeyer
DUBUQUE #6
John O Dvorak
Paul N Exstrom
Thomas J Richard
La Verne J Pape
Ronald L Kemp
Joseph A Johnson
Wallace A Pensel
Jerome J Meyer
Daniel L Cooper
Norman G Fensterman
Garry F Clauer
Wayne C Konrardy
James P Rice
Daniel A Oberbroeckling
Richard Belmont
Ronald J Ruden
Delbert E Link
CARROLL #7
Kenneth J Frank
Walter R Onken
Cyril E Schulte
DENISON #8
Stanley O Kracht
Lance Cooper
OELWEIN #9
Bruce L Miller

JEFFERSON #11
Joe A Deboest
MARATHON #12
Eugene H Sandwig
ANAMOSA #13
Richard D Allen
Edward T Redmond
IOWA CITY #17
George W Graves
POCAHONTAS #18
William Devereaux
DEDHAM #20
Derrill Dickerson
Arnold Wiskus
BUFFALO CENTER #21
Ronald G Boettcher
DAVENPORT #26
Ronald G McDowell
Lawrence A Hartman
Roger H Schmidt
James H Jacobsen
Greg Dandidge
Fred Lue
William T Craig Jr
Leo H Anderson
MUSCATINE #27
Allan B Ball
Kenneth L McGrew
John F Moss
Robert J McMahon
INDEPENDENCE #30
Patrick H Bevans
RUTHVEN #33
Eugene T Weir
OSKALOOSA #34
Charles D Lowry
Lloyd M Patterson
John W Porter
Sidney A Smith
Howard Thompson
Vernon Wells
Gerrit Roozeboom
William D Garner
Roger Broerman
Lars C Legvold
AMES #37
Arnold J Hefte
Wayne Ostendorf
Norman Rudi
Steven K Hayes
Terry J Negri
Robert S Hedges
KEOKUK #41
Larry C Flambeau
ANKENY #42
Vernon J Reinert
Robert A Sapp
ATLANTIC #43
Jim R Headlee
MANCHESTER #45
Ronald F Sickels
Gary Petrie
Lance E Billhorn
John Thibadeau
Troy L Tutton
Wallace Hawker
Gary L Cooper
Charles L Lammers
MARSHALLTOWN #46
Vernon F Weitzell
Joseph V Sims
Philip D Ward
Kevin L Jones
FAIRFIELD #47
Frank L Onder
John R Cook

Gary L Blaise
NEVADA #48
Richard W Couser
DALLAS CENTER #49
Luke F Little
BURLINGTON #52
William M Hedgepeth Jr
Richard G Abernathy
Robert R Reid
GRINNELL #53
Lyle Latcham
BOONE #56
Robert W Pink
Dale Titman
Stephen E Payton
VINTON #57
Kent Stufflebeam
MT. PLEASANT #58
Stanley E Hill
STORY CITY #59
James H Dale
John Satre
Ronald F Mohr
IDA GROVE #61
Dwayne D Salmon
Steven L Andresen
SIOUX CITY #64
Bruce A Scheid
Vernon G Hughes
Richard Waskow
CHARTER OAK #66
Melvin L Goslar
RED OAK #67
Ronald D Wilkinson
CORYDON #68
Michael Moulds
CRESTON #70
Duance L Oneall
Dennis Struble
TAMA #73
William C Bearden
SABULA #74
Hubert H Wise
Fred W Bresette
MAQUOKETA #75
George Roeder
Donald M Henningsen
Rex Sanger
David J Schilling
MARENGO #76
Kenneth O Daugherty
Jerry L Hinshaw
CORRECTIONVILLE #79
Ray Hoffman
FORT MADISON #82
Roger Languell
HEDRICK #83
Jimmy L Spears
Danny R Norris
SHENANDOAH #88
Wayne K Hoxie
Michael H Peterman
PELLA #89
Everett E Slagle
Donald G Frisby
James Steenhoek
ESTHERVILLE #91
Lawrence J Jones
Richard Peton
SALEM #94
Jack Hudson
MINBURN #99
Robert P Kautzky
COLUMBUS JCT #100
Dean Hoehle
MASON CITY #101
Willis Haddix
Alan J Monson
CHARITON #102
Kenneth Lee
ROCK RAPIDS #103
John Pudwill Jr
Ben Smidstra
PLEASANTVILLE #108
William D Templeton
LISBON #109
John J Woods
Dennis L Wolrab
NEWTON #111
Eben Vandusseldorp Jr
Terry Rohrdanz
Howard L Cupples
HUMBOLDT #119
Darwin A Pedersen
AUDUBON #120
Frederick A Wittrock
TIPTON #123
Paul D Campbell
MERRILL #125
Bernard G Gundel
Curtis M Utesch
GLADBROOK #127
John Bryant
Merle E Leonard
SIDNEY #128
Earl Randolph
Robert F Leonard
ONAWA #129
Thomas I Shook
MANILLA #132
Larry Justice
William D Joens
Robert Spangler
Norbert Kasperbauer
LAKE VIEW #133
Robert L Nansteel
Donald D Meyer
ALBIA #136
John W Weir
DYERSVILLE #137
James R Nadermann
Bill Rediger
Herbert Sperfslage
Van Butcher
Daniel Engelden
WATERLOO #138

Vernon J Christensen
Herald Bensing
Luverne H Lemke
Lloyd A Vogt
Jerry R Ellis
William F Lau
Donald Lindsey
Larry D Oltrogge
Kay L Kober
Thomas E Harvey
Jack L Harrum
RP Jaehrling
Charles B Storey
James Clarke
Charles L Trask
GLENWOOD #141
Herb H Mayhew
Lawrence J Vrbka
TRAEER #142
John M Buresh
William A Russell
STUART #146
Ed Donnelly
STOCKPORT #147
David Mosinski
GILMAN #149
Garol M Cooling
HARLAN #150
Earl E Boltinghouse
BETTENDORF #154
Michael J Niewald
MITCHELLVILLE #155
Lloyd T Tucker
WOODBURN #157
Lonnie Boutwell
EARLHAM #158
James Williamson
DELHI #160
Lawrence E Whiting
INDIANOLA #165
Thomas J Nicholls
NEWHALL #167
Donald A Deklotz
KNOXVILLE #168
James B Neylon
Gary Shilling
MONTEZUMA #169
Jesse Finch
MESERVEY #172
Randy D Johnson
William L Doudy
CHARLES CITY #174
Bruce B White
John W Neuzil
WAVERLY #176
William C Vossberg
MT AUBURN #177
Leonard O Mullnix
Billie L Lint Sr
SEYMOUR #180
Shirley M John
ELDORA #182
Marvin Granzow
HAMPTON #183
Henry D Sorensen
Albert H Viehmeyer Jr
WINTERSET #184
Dean Molln
Dick Tyer
William Eggers
CLINTON #190
William Eggers
WEBSTER CITY #191
Robert S Long
Melvin L Randall
Eldon R Kinnetz
Richard M Lubbers
Marvin Gilbert
James Seiser
EMMETSBURG #192
William W Ortman
DICKENS #194
Edwin Kiley
CHURDAN #198
Richard J Vogel
SIOUX CENTER #199
Howard H Sandbulte
James J Koldenhoven
ALDEN #201
Michael A Hunt
MANSON #204
Wayne Parker
Norman E Thoel
Richard H Stewart
ANITA #210
Merlin J Kraus
WOODWARD #211
Susan E Osburn
CENTERVILLE #214
William E Miller
STRAWBERRY PT #218
Alvin E Scott
REMSEN #220
Orville Portz
SUMNER #223
Louis Bishop
DUNLAP #224
Lyle E Reed
HOLSTEIN #225
Tom W Conover
Pat Forristal
Kenneth W Schumann
Troy A Howard
AVOCA #227
Roy A Schultz
Darwin T Brockman
WILLIAMSBURG #228
Bill Houlihan
CHEROKEE #230
Edward E Boger
POLK CITY #232
Robert M Bakkie
Robert L Harris
Thomas E Logan
NORWAY #234
Don Elliott

LAKE MILLS #235
C S Nelson
CEDAR FALLS #237
Ronald A Arntson
Larry Oster
Steven B Barkhoff
DEWIT #238
Ronald V Banowetz
Louis F Ingwersen
Charles J Morel
Jeremiah Sunday
LEMARS #241
Allen L Kurtzhals
Dominique Hollowell
CLARION #246
Dale Haugland
MAXWELL #249
David L Hobbs
LENEX #250
Edwin C Hill
Allen W Miller
ACKLEY #252
Alle B Jaspers
URBANA #264
Grant H Takes
GREENFIELD #265
Bill Martin
Clarence Swartz
GREENE #268
B Paul Luebbers
BELLEVUE #273
Larry Heiar
Randall C Weber
PRAIRIE CITY #275
James Williams
IRETON #276
Lloyd Schlumbohm
SHEFFIELD #277
Charles D Nolte
LAWLER #279
Dan L McFarland
AUBURN #284
Bill Williams
PARKERSBURG #285
Robert Neavins
Vernon E Ingalls
Vernon A Simon
BROOKLYN #294
Carl D Merical
DEEP RIVER #296
Jerry Grier
CENTER POINT #297
Douglas J Trachta
MARION #298
Edward J Casey
Kent M Hill
David L Levan
Reginald L Eberle
Herbert K Beresford
William V Frese
William R Neal
Frank R Whittiers
Earl Tharp
Milver C Schindler
George T Cavanaugh
Richard D Herken
Ronald J Lietz
Dale W Filloon
Ed Carstens
Carl L Carlson
Charles Stewart
Lawrence L Brasier Sr
Michael L Burke
Russell J Rhoads
Don Hatfield
MOVILLE #303
Kenneth L Berke
EAGLE GROVE #304
Donald D Kelly
HUMESTON #306
Ernest L Cunningham
RUSSELL #308
Robert K Hensley
ODEBOLT #313
Robert Harden
PERSIA #314
Jack A Stamp
BRITT #315
Larry A Haugland
Jerry J Craig
SANBORN #318
Don G Hakeman
ROCK VALLEY #321
John E Miller
Ronald P Schuttloffel
Cornie Visser
Jeff Johnson
ELK HORN #322
J M Molgaard
Andrew Kissel
Henry J Jones III
ORANGE CITY #329
Carl Reinking
Andy Engeltjes
NEOLA #330
Richard E Scott
DYSART #335
Warren H Wagner
R D Young
MISSOURI VALLEY #337
Ronnie L Beck
Gerald D Marshall
MYSTIC #340
James F Graham
JESUP #342
Leroy B Westemeier
Rick L Zuck
LAMONT #346
Merlin H Goedken
LECLAIRE #347
Donald R Brown
GRUNDY CENTER #349
Wilfred Coulson
Everett R Wilson
ELGIN #352
Joe B Reierson

DUMONT #360
Verne Vanlengen
LOWDEN #366
William E Elijah
Edgar C Hintz
Richard Kleppe
LOHRVILLE #368
Alan Urelius
GOLDFIELD #370
Leo C Kiley
GUTTENBERG #373
Russell Loven
DES MOINES #374
Warren G Dilworth
Steven M Bales
MONDAMIN #378
Jerry Hussing
RINGSTED #382
Harold J Kramer
Lloyd Johnson
MILFORD #384
Donald Baschke
Byron Thelen
ST OLAF #388
Virgil D Lenth
CARLISLE #391
Donald Bartholomew
SIOUX RAPIDS #394
Richard Frommie
BONDURANT #396
Dennis P Morgan
QUIMBY #398
Eugene R Ferris
VAN METER #403
Francis J Forret
GEORGE #404
Gordon O Siebring
Gerald Goswick
LITTLE SIOUX #410
Martin McColley
Louie Costanzo
DEXTER #419
Leonard L Bisher
CENTRAL CITY #421
Thomas Walker
WALNUT #422
Darryl E Schuttloffel
HOSPERS #423
Donald P Becker
WHITEMORE #425
William C Elbert
Maurice J Bormann
Michael T Moe
LACONA #426
Dennis Hoch
DURANT #430
Harold Leazer
EARLVILLE #436
Jules M Ulldrich
MINDEN #437
Walter Chambers
NORA SPRINGS #449
John T Clarke
LONE TREE #457
Gerald C Westfall
OLON #460
Francis E Cummings
Francis H Bahmlier
Glenn Shima
Dean Jeter
Jeff Forsstrom
Marshall Keith
ADEL #464
Robert E Collins
Carroll L York
MELVIN #470
William H Knock
OXFORD JCT #473
Leon Kyarsgaard
HINTON #477
Paul B Felecia
WHITING #481
John E Brenner
DAVENPORT #482
William A Glover
MILTON #483
Billy F Smith
CLEGHORN #486
Robert L Becker
HORNICK #492
Andrew T Sieger
BAXTER #493
John G Edge
DOUDS #494
C Ray Roach
Roger L Channel
MAPLETON #496
Charlie O Schrunck
ALTA #498
Robert M Thompson
CASTANA #502
Leo E Shook
RICHLAND #504
J Keith Nelson
GRISWOLD #508
Orville D Merritt
WEST LIBERTY #509
Walter H Lehman
John H Nath Jr
Harold E Kline
FARNHAMVILLE #510
Leonard Webb
WEST BRANCH #514
Gary Thomas
Robert J Alford
Melvin E Korschgen
POSTVILLE #518
Calvin Foels
JANESVILLE #522
Floyd J Hundley
DOWS #523
George D Anderson
Melvin Beyer
Larry D Montandon
CASCADE #528
John R McQuillen

James A Cumming
John Krogman
John L Ressler
OXFORD #537
Dewey M Nielsen
PRESCOTT #544
Karl W Gibson
LIME SPRINGS #545
Wilton Thomas
Richard Bessingpas
PORTSMOUTH #547
Alvin A Heller
CARSON #556
Merle Phillips
Joe E Potter
LONE ROCK #557
Joe E Culbertson
FAIRFAX #572
Daniel W Weaver
Daniel J Leary
EMERSON #575
Robert A Hicks
STRATFORD #576
Dean L Swedlund
RIPPEY #583
Lavere Derry
SPRAGUEVILLE #590
David L Eckelberg
CALLENDER #592
Marion Peterson
PRESTON #602
Wallace Kruse
EARLING #615
Vincent Heese
Gail Foxhoven
W DES MOINES #620
William M Owens
Richard L Fuller
Paul Johnson
GRAND MOUND #622
Edward C Carlson
Gary D Curtis
DENVER #653
Lorain P Diercks
Erwin J Koschmeder
Richard R Buchholz
DES MOINES #659
Robert J Stearley
Michael P Sposeto
Kenneth G Sheldon
SGT BLUFF #662
David B Hemmingson
Michael Clayton
Heral L Jensen
URBANDALE #663
Albert G Forcucci
Henry J Hannam
John TVanhove
Gordon O Hendrickson
Don R Stover
SMITHLAND #666
Calvin R Servis
Bernard P McBride
WEST POINT #668
James A Hennigar
Harold Bonar
SWISHER #671
Lumir D Melsha
Daniel J Ales
Henry J Gorman
Larry T Kubalek
FT ATKINSON #672
Donald F Riha
TODDVILLE #674
Archie L Blackford
CONRAD #681
William L Clingerman
ALTOONA #682
Andrew M Jansma
David R White
LESTER #683
Robert L Gerber
Melvin G Knobloch
JAMAICA #687
Stephen Molle
ARCADIA #694
Wilbert Lussman
Lyle Vonnahme
Raymond C Sigwalt
SIOUX CITY #697
Kyle R Peterson Jr
TAMA #701
Homer Bear Jr
GILBERTVILLE #714
Michael D Burrage
Larry J Schmit
Laurence A Miller
Edward S Schares
Francis J Even
Thomas C Kendrick
Harold E Bienfang
SST MARYS #716
William G Harless
GRANGER #717
James R Loudon
BRUNSVILLE #724
Varold J Voss
Leonard A Berg
Duane Winterfeld
JOHNSTON #728
Richard Heger
IOWA HQ #729
Douglas Williams
George Spoo
Francis L Murphy
Dwain Hoover
James E Jones
Grover J Bell Jr
Leon P Kessel
Merlin Halverson
Robert F Adams Jr
Ernest J Mutschler
Glenn H Thompson
Arthur E Perryman
Albert Mehring
Thomas Barriger

Kenneth D McDowell
Keith E McKee
Richard Burrill
Douglas Weaver
Clark Wallace
Roger D McQuitty
Keith Fields
Gerald M Vogel
Owen Rehnblom
Erling C Nerem
David E Horner
Raymond L Larsen
Carroll G Jensen
William S Butcher
Earl W Sass
Kent A Burlingame
Jack Marshall
Gordon W Ward
Jack Harmer
Richard Anderson
Larry Espe
Paul Garrels
Donald Neuberger
Harry Waldron
Lee B Crane
Roger D Carlson
Charles A Woodruff
David Ketelsen
Michael L Oneal
James M Ward
Donald R Leners
James Manteufel
Mark Taylor
Paul Blair
Jerry Kilts
John E Hall
Larry L Griffin
Harry Conner Sr
Dale Cochran
Robert C Morawitz
Russel W Rommel
Donald D Boone
Ronald Squires
Leonard Farnham
Edgar B Snow Jr
Paul Botine
Carleton Kittelson
Gregg C Jones
George L Simmer
Rodney H Jones
Alden J Morrison
Charles E Reuter
William Bennett
Roger Davids
John D Jenni
Pat Grady
Richard Oberman
Dean R Fick
Emer Carlson
Dean T Gramowski
Henry D Hanssen
Bob Van Vors
Larry J Weigle
Sam Payne
DES MOINES #731
Gary R Speck
MALCOM #733
Merle Lamb
George Axmear
Barbara L Story
WAUKEE #737
Bruce W Meyer
NORTH LIBERTY #1976
David J Ashton

SQUADRRON EVERLASTING

OTTUMWA #3
Willis I Luse
DUBUQUE #6
Randall J Purcell
Tony Burbach
DEDHAM #20
Aaron Nieland
MUSCATINE #27
Jerry A Stalkfleet
Robert J Rogers
AMES #37
James L Hedden
AMES #37
James L Hedden
MANCHESTER #45
Ron R Struble
TAMA #73
Stan E Graff
LORIMOR #96
Mitch K Wilson
NEWTON #111
Charles E Sheperd
WEBSTER CITY #191
Richard M Lubbers
CHEROKEE #230
Edward E Boger
ACKLEY #252
Randall K Ulfers
DES MOINES #274
E L Roy Cooley
LIVERMORE #415
Daniel P Malkmus
WHITTEMORE #425
Ronald E Meyer
Terry J Froehlich
Michael H Vanoosbree
WEST LIBERTY #509
Gary Daufeldt
Lindsey Simpson
DES MOINES #731
Gary R Speck

C & Y 5th Grade Flag Essay Contest

The Fifth Grade Flag Essay Contest winners from each District were received at the Department and are listed below. Department wide there were 100 posts that submitted entries from which there were 4033 entries.

- 1st District – Madilyn Woods, Morning Sun Post 112
- 2nd District – Bindi Kettmann, Bellevue Post 273
- 3rd District -Rachel Henry, Shellsburg Post 166
- 4th District -Lennex Clubb, Protivin Post 605
- 5th District -Amiah Suarez, Albia Post 136
- 6th District -Annabelle Brooks, Slater Post 260
- 7th District – KC Sparks, Sidney Post 128
- 8th District – Bo Nagl, Arcadia, Post 694
- 9th District – Mason Bollin, LeMars Post 241

1st Place winner 5th Grade Flag Essay – Department of Iowa 2022 -2023

Annabelle Brooks is the 5th Grade Flag Essay winner in the Department of Iowa.

She attends Ballard East Elementary School in Cambridge, and her entry was submitted by the Slater Legion Post #260 in the 6th District.

2nd Place winner 5th Grade Flag Essay – Department of Iowa 2022 -2023

Amiah Suarez finished in 2nd Place in the 5th Grade Flag Essay contest in the Department of Iowa.

She attends Lincoln Center Elementary in Albia, and her entry was submitted by the Albia American Legion Post #136 in the 5th District.

3rd Place winner 5th Grade Flag Essay – Department of Iowa 2022 -2023

Madilyn Woods finished in 3rd Place in the 5th Grade Flag Essay contest in the Department of Iowa.

She attends Morning Sun Elementary in Morning Sun, and her entry was submitted by the Morning Sun American Legion Post #112 in the 1st District.

The Children and Youth Committee, Department of Iowa, is very proud of our winners and we are proud of all the student’s efforts throughout the Department and appreciate the support they received from their teachers and school districts. This could not have been achieved without the post’s initiative and persistence, thank you.

Educator of the Year

www.ialegion.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.ialegion.org or by request from the Department office.

Nominations must be received by April 1, 2023.



Americanism

5th Grade Flag essays have been completed and sent to respective District 5th grade Flag Essay Chairmen, who have judged their entries and sent selected winners to Department C & Y Chairmen to be judged for the department’s final three winners. District Oratorical Speaking contests are now completed. We extend our congratulations to our three finalists at the department contest. Educator of The Year nominees are due by April 1, 2023, entries are needed, there are many, outstanding educators in our schools, and The American Legion Department of Iowa needs to recognize them. District Commanders, you need to be sure the Educator of The Year finalist in your District is properly recognized. April 1st has 4 deadlines to be fully filled, Baseball Rosters and Player Forms Due, Boys State Delegate Registration Due, Boys State Refund Request Due, and Educator of the

Year. There are many outstanding Programs through The American Legion Americanism Commission everyone needs to encourage every post in their respective District to promote at least one of our youth programs in their respective schools, so what if two posts go to the same schools more winners more American legion recognition? Mid-Winter Conference your Department Americanism Chairmen was asked to do a Flag Folding Program for The Junior Auxiliary Members. I accepted what an honor and opportunity to speak about Americanism, for its meaning and value, with the assistance of Bob Onken, we folded the flag as Alida Kolthoff read the meaning of each fold. Department Americanism Chairmen Kessler talks to the Junior Members about the Flag and the need to respect it and why The Greatest Flag. demands The Respect it so richly deserves. We then folded The Flag again as each Junior Member folded their own flag, with the assistants of Department Commander Johnson and Senior Auxiliary members assisting. Every American Legion Post can teach Americanism to 4-H clubs, elementary students, Church Groups, and other various organizations. James Kessler, Chairman

James B. Kessler

Past Department of Iowa Commander
Department Americanism Chairman
The American Legion

2023 Spring Conferences

March 11	3rd District	Marshalltown	Randy Johnson, Department Commander Dennis Soppe, NEC Teresa Shaw Coffin and Ann Haack Kevin Brown, Claims Representative
March 25	7th District	Shenandoah	Randy Johnson, Department Commander Dennis Soppe, NEC Teresa Shaw Coffin, Business Manager Kevin Brown, Claims Representative
March 25	8th District	Whittemore	Marvin Carr, Department Vice Commander Ken Rochholz, Alternate NEC Ann Haack, Membership Clerk Shane Pankonen, Service Officer
April 1	9th District	Wall Lake	Marvin Carr, Department Vice Commander Ken Rochholz, Alternate NEC John Derner, Department Adjutant Kevin Brown, Claims Representative
April 8	5th District	Mount Ayr	Randy Johnson, Department Commander Dennis Soppe, NEC Teresa Shaw Coffin, Business Manager Kevin Brown, Claims Representative
April 15	2nd District	Farley	Randy Johnson, Department Commander Ken Rochholz, Alternate NEC Eric Less, Programs Director Josey Pester, Claims Representative
April 15	4th District	Osage	Dan Boberg, Department Vice Commander John Derner, Department Adjutant Kevin Brown, Claims Representative
April 15	6th District	Ankeny	Jennifer Rehbein, Dept. Vice Commander Dennis Soppe, NEC Ann Haack, Membership Clerk Missy Kauzlarich, Claims Representative
April 29	1st District	Swisher	Randy Johnson, Department Commander Ken Rochholz, Alternate NEC Eric Less, Programs Director Kevin Brown, Claims Representative
April 30	SAL	Des Moines	Randy Johnson, Department Commander John Derner, Department Adjutant

National Affairs Committee Report for the State of Iowa on Feb. 10, 2023 at Mid-Winter in Des Moines, Iowa

The National Affairs Committee is responsible for selecting the Fire Fighter and the Law Enforcement Officers of the year. This year the applications for both were due by Nov 30th to the State Legion Office.

In Nov 2022, I gave a report to you on Firefighter and Law Enforcement of the year candidates. I reported that we were only getting 2 to 5 candidates for each program. I also informed you that our choice for Firefighter was Ryan Winkler and his information went to National American Legion and he was chosen for National Firefighter of the Year. That is a great honor for Ryan, for his department and for Iowa.

At that time I ask you to go to your District Post and see if they would submit applications so we have more to choose from and you did.

This year we had 4 Firefighters and 5 Law Enforcement Officer to choose from.

This year's Firefighter of the year is David Grass from Asbury, Ia. 2nd District. The post submitting him was Epworth Post 650. Epworth, IA

This year's Law Enforcement Officer is Ty Boldra from Glenwood, IA. 7th District. The post submitting him was Harvey Rimel Post 141 of Glenwood, IA.

These two gentlemen's information will go to National for consideration for National honors.

This concludes my report, but I would like to thank each and every one of you for your assistance in bring up our applications numbers.

Also, Please continue to help get applications in to us.

**Thank You,
Fidell Wadsworth
National Affairs Chairman.**



Walk for Veterans

The American Legion of Iowa
Walk for Veterans at the Iowa State Fair

**Monday, August 14, 2023
Veterans Day at the Iowa State Fair
Veterans' Parade**

**Staging time: 7:00 – 10:30 am
Parade: 11:00 am**

Information & Registration Instructions

Department Commander Randy Johnson will lead American Legion family members and friends in a Walk for Veterans.

NEW THIS YEAR!!

**Information, instructions,
and forms will be available on our website soon.
Please keep checking back at www.ialegion.org
for our new registration process.**

- All participants must register (free registration) with The American Legion of Iowa before July 9, 2023.
- All walk participants must wear The American Legion Walk for Veterans shirt. Shirts from previous years may be worn.
- All parade participants will receive free entry into the Iowa State Fair.
- Parking is not included.



The American Legion and The Department of Iowa will be cheering on the Legion-sponsored INDYCAR at the Iowa Speedway, July 21-23, 2023. Other activities will be hosted throughout the event. Full details will be available during the next Iowa Legionnaire.

**Mark your calendars and check out the
Iowa Speedway for tickets:
www.iowaspeedway.com**

The Power of Music

Music unites communities with their military forces. With patriotism, sacrifice, and honor being central to both, DenimFest in Forest City, Iowa is solidifying that connection over Memorial Day weekend.

Joe Denim, founder of DenimFest, was raised in the heartland of Ohio on a dairy farm within a military family. Denim's father was a Radar man in the United States Navy and served three tours in Vietnam. He shared his experiences with Joe, continued to honor fallen soldiers, and instilled a sense of duty, respect, and the value of freedom in Joe that has continued with him all his life.

Denim, a comedian and double-platinum certified songwriter, has made his living on the road performing. Like many other country stars, Denim always looked for ways to give back to those who have served our country. When the opportunity to launch DenimFest became a reality his first call was to the American Legion.

"While many people might think of The American Legion as just a group for veterans," says Denim, "it is actually an essential resource for all Americans, especially with there Be The One campaign that is working towards reducing the rate of veteran suicide. "A phone call to check on a friend can change the trajectory of their life."

DenimFest wants to Be The One festival that helps bring awareness, hope, and a sense of community to all veterans and their families on the Memorial Day weekend.

Find out more about the music lineup, camping, tickets and military discount at Denimfest.com



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