



THE AMERICAN LEGION  
DEPARTMENT OF IOWA

# IOWA LEGIONNAIRE &

## Auxiliary Communiqué

An Official Publication of The American Legion, Department of Iowa: March 2024

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

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### 2024 Department Oratorical Contest

The Department of Iowa's High School Oratorical Contest was held Sunday, February 4, 2024, 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 Karli Roth of Earlham, Iowa. Karli is a Junior and homeschooled. The title of her prepared oration is We The People: Our Nation's First and Final Check and Balance. Karli is the daughter of Joseph and Sarah Roth. She will compete in the National Oratorical Contest on May 17-19 in Hillsdale, Mich for a chance to win a large scholarship of \$25,000 and the title of national champion. Karli is sponsored by Waukee American Legion Post #737 Waukee, IA. Congratulations Karli and best of luck. Runner-up honors go to Lily Moeller, a MOC-Floyd Valley High School Sophomore, and an Orange City resident sponsored by Pressman-Kosters American Legion Post #329 in Orange City. Third place finish went to Divya Ramadugu, a sophomore from Cedar Rapids Iowa. Divya is sponsored by American Legion Post #298 Marion, 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 Karli, 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](http://www.legion.org/oratorical).



L-R: Post 298 Commander (Robert Demastis), Department Commander (Stan Elliott), Oratorical Winner (Devya Ramadugu), 2nd District Commander (Dick Bries)



3rd District Commander Dixie Kapayou and 1st District Commander Gerald Bennett attended the Salute to The Fallen's first Salute To The Troops Black Tie Gala held on December 9, 2023 at the Olympic South Side Theater, Cedar Rapids, IA.

### Dept. Convention

July 19-22, 2024, Des Moines

The Department Convention will be held July 19-22, 2024, at the Airport Holiday Inn Des Moines (6111 Fleur Dr., Des Moines, IA 50321). The purpose of the convention is for the election of Department Officers, ratification of the Department Constitution & By-Laws, and for establishing the policies and positions of The American Legion. Reports will be given by the Department Commissions & Committees on American Legion programs and several awards will be presented.

Additional information and a complete convention schedule will appear in the June issue of the Iowa Legionnaire. For reservations, call (515) 287-2400. Be sure to ask for The American Legion convention rate.

### DEADLINES & DATES

- March 9**  
Boys State Board Meeting – 10 AM HQ  
7th District Conference-Glenwood
- March 18-22**  
Spring Membership Tour
- March 23**  
JSSP Department Match – Johnston  
4th District Conference-Oelwein
- March 30**  
3rd District Conference – Tama, IA
- April 1**  
Baseball Rosters & Forms Due  
Boys State Delegate Registration Due  
Educator of the Year Due
- April 6**  
8th District Conference – Fort Dodge
- April 13**  
1st District Conference-Columbus Junction
- April 15**  
Foundation Grant Application Due  
Post Data Reports Due
- April 20**  
2nd District Conference-Blue Grass  
5th District Conference-Deep River  
6th District Conference-Cumming
- April 27**  
9th District Conference - Holstein
- April 28**  
SAL Conference – Des Moines
- April 30**  
Department Media Awards Due
- May 5-9**  
National Spring Meetings – Indianapolis, Indiana
- May 12**  
Mother's Day
- May 15**  
Summer Legionnaire Articles Due  
Peace Officers Memorial Day
- May 17-19**  
National Oratorical Contest – Hillsdale, Mich
- May 18**  
Armed Forces Day
- May 23**  
Foundation Annual Meeting  
10 AM Department Headquarters
- May 27**  
Memorial Day  
Dept. Offices Closed
- May 31**  
District Commander Orientation
- May 31-June 2**  
Department Leadership School – Des Moines
- June 15**  
Consolidated Post Reports Due  
Legionnaire of the Year Nominations are Due  
National Convention Registration Due
- June 19**  
Department Office Closed
- June 23-28**  
Boys State-Camp Dodge



@iowalegion



**The American Legion, Department of Iowa**

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

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**Department Commander**  
 Stanley Elliott

**Greetings**

The American Legion Family of Iowa held our Mid-Winter Conference on February 1-4, I thank everyone who attended. I can't thank our

Headquarters Staff including our Service Officers enough for all the hard work they put in to make it a success. Department Vice Commanders, District Commanders, Commission and Committee Chairs did an outstanding job of filling in where needed on short notice.

Our Training Committee did an excellent job of finding new ideas to incorporate into the weekend. The breakout sessions were popular, and that came about because of ideas tossed around at last year's Iowa Legion Leadership School. As a reminder every District is allowed a limited number of members to attend the school. Attend your Spring Conference for more information.

We kick off Spring District Conferences in March, find out when yours is and plan on attending. I've personally learned that attending not only your own but also others can help you grow as a Legionnaire. The face-to-face communication and networking are second to none, but it all begins with you taking the first step. Several Districts have training sessions as part of their agenda. These Conferences are all about learning and finding out what is going on in your areas. The Conferences are open to all Legion members.

At your Spring Conference your Districts are electing members as Delegates and Alternates to the National Convention in New Orleans in August.

Membership is going strong. As of this writing Iowa is in third place nationally. We have hovered in the top three for several weeks now and this is a direct result of your efforts. Keep up the great work and let's continue to grow the Iowa American Legion. Iowa is leading the Midwest Region in membership and has for most of this membership year. 100% is within our reach, make those phone calls, visits and send those letters, let's get it done.

In March we have our Midwest Region National Vice Commander Raymond Vale from Kansas visiting. His visit is being promoted as a membership tour and will take place March 18-22. The tour is concentrating on sixth, seventh, eighth and ninth Districts. If you have suggestions for stops and visits, please reach out to Membership chair Brian Ring. As the tour and stop locations become finalized, they will be published in our Electronic Newsletter, website and Facebook page. Please plan on attending at least one stop and let's show NVC Vale just how strong Iowa is.

As a reminder if your Post or County, including city and civic celebrations, wants a visit from me it's as simple as going to [ialegion.org](http://ialegion.org). Click on the about us tab, scroll down to Department Commander, click on that and hit the Commander Visit button. Fill out the form and submit. If I can't attend due to already scheduled visits on that day, we will reach out to you and see if a Vice Commander can fill in.

Karli Roth from Earlham and sponsored by Waukee Post 737 placed first in the Oratorical contest finals held Sunday at Mid-Winter. Let's all congratulate Karli and show our support as she now advances to the National Competition.

Boys State is now taking registrations. Along with still needing as many attendees as possible, we also need counselors. You can sign up as a counselor on the [ialegion.org](http://ialegion.org), programs, Children & Youth, Boys State, and then counselor registration.

Everything our department accomplished so far this year is because of your "Devotion To Mutual Helpfulness". Your hard work and dedication to the greatest Veterans Organization in America is noticed, appreciated and I thank you.



**Department Adjutant**  
 John A. Derner

In 1923, The American Legion had been functioning for four years. Veterans' issues had received much of the attention of our organization.

The American Legion began to see more clearly that the strength of the Legion would eventually lie in the strength of local posts. We knew that our influence on legislative problems on the state and national levels would depend on the influence of local posts in communities across the nation.

With this thought in mind, Hanford MacNider, Past National Commander from Iowa, in an informal meeting of Past National Commanders at the Palace Hotel in San Francisco suggested just prior to the opening of the National Convention of 1923. He suggested that a program of local community service be adopted as a vital part of The American Legion's programs. The idea was presented and enthusiastically advocated by the Iowa delegation at the National Convention. The resolution stated that any endeavor which would tend to make a community a more pleasant and happy place in which to live would also create a greater national pride and foster a more abiding love of country.

Since the idea of making local community service an outstanding feature of American Legion programs throughout the country was suggested by an Iowan and was advocated at the National Convention by the Iowa Department, it soon became known as "The Iowa Idea." Since 1923 the work of The American Legion in community service has been constantly growing. The Iowa Idea of community service is now considered one of the four pillars on which our organization is founded.

From our earliest years, American Legion posts have been actively involved in service to the community. We have been involved in the betterment of schools, parks and playground facilities, medical clinics, community buildings and veterans' monuments. We have provided funding and equipment for fire departments, emergency medical services, 4H, Boys Scouts, community youth programs and more. All these contributions stand as monuments to The American Legion and its members.

I have long considered community service a vital part of every American Legion post. When most Americans think of The American Legion, the National and Department organizations are not what come to mind. It is the local post. The work we do in our communities defines The American Legion to the public. The image of the local post is the image of The American Legion.

I have fond memories of my post when growing up. I remember the Legionnaires leading parades, setting up the town celebration, and other community service projects. The post was, and still is, the centerpiece of the community. We must strive to make all our American Legion posts centers of our communities again.

I once visited a post that wanted to turn in its charter. They were down to 24 members, had no building, no money, and were participating in few programs. During our conversation with the members, the district commander asked what activities the post had been involved with in the past. The members took turns telling stories of post achievements in the community. When the conversation ended, it was stated that if they closed the post, their community would never have those things again. That was all the convincing necessary to save the post. Today, they are a strong, vital post, participating in multiple programs and providing many services to the community. I believe we need to focus on developing leadership in our Posts. If we concentrate on developing leadership on the local level, our Posts will become stronger, and we will become a much more effective organization.

The services we provide to our communities will also influence the strength of our local posts. By becoming more active and more visible in our communities, more members will want to join our ranks. But this is not about

**Continued on next page**





**Department Service Officer**  
Shane Pankonen

VA Copayment Responsibility and Debt Options

The Department of Veteran's Affairs (VA) offers a vast array of services, and multiple options available to help pay your copayments required by your insurance.

You as a Veteran are responsible for your copayments for certain services. If you do not pay these in good faith, and in a timely manner, this debt can be sent to the Department of Treasury for collection. If at any time you are unable to financially make the copayments, the Department of Veteran's Affairs (VA) can help with financial arrangements such as repayment plans or a waiver within 30 days of the

initial billing by completing VA Form 5655 on VA.gov/VA forms.

Or by calling 1-800-827-0648.

If you receive VA benefit payments, these benefit payments could be used to collect any unpaid delinquent copayment debt. The debt is turned over to the Treasury Debt Management Service after 120 days for collections. At that point in time, Treasury will issue an official notification letter to you to make payment arrangements and if arrangements are not made, Treasury will begin collections.

If arrangements are not made, the following actions could take place. Any eligible Federal payments including income tax refunds, Social Security benefits, retirement payments, or any Federal or State payments can be withheld. Also, Treasury can also collect the debt from civilian salaries through wage garnishment, or they can collect the debt

through private collection agencies. Once a debt is turned over to the Department of Treasury, the Department of Veteran's Affairs (VA) can no longer accept payments for that debt, it must go through the collection agency that your debt was turned over to.

If you have questions or concerns regarding copayment debt you are encouraged to contact the Facility Revenue Office at your local VA medical center or call the Health Resource Center's number listed at the top of your billing statement. You have the right to dispute any debt you deem incorrect.

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



**Department Chaplain**  
Whitney Smith McIntosh

I have been honored and blessed to be your chaplain for the past 2 years. This past midwinter conference I was able to give the Legion back a bit of honor.

Thank you to Governor Kim Reynolds for signing

the proclamation that February the 3rd 2024 is Four Chaplains' day.

When I read the chaplains prayer,

Chaplain Poling had asked his father to pray for him. His request has become a guiding prayer for chaplains throughout the legion.

"Father pray for me. Not for my safe return. That wouldn't be fair.

Just pray that I shall do my duty...

never be a coward...

and have the strength, courage, and understanding of men.

Just pray that I shall be adequate."

I was humbled and a little taken aback. As I prayed for understanding of that request, I realized that being enough and being what is needed and being adequate is all any of us can ever hope to be.

Be blessed and know that I am praying for each one of you.

For God and Country



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

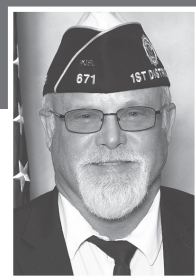
The Final Salute. This is a project for the purpose of veterans with no family, their final resting place. One of the veterans is a Civil War Veteran.

He has been sitting on a shelf in the back room of a funeral home for 93 years. At the Mid-Winter

Conference the Detachment had for sale raffle tickets and had a drawing for a wooden plaque. Money will go for the purpose of wood to construct the urns. The Detachment would like to thank all for purchase of tickets and donates. The Detachment made this a on going project at our DEC meeting at Mid-Winter. Let's gave these veterans their Final Resting Place with Dignity and Honor they Deserve.

This year so far we have 8 new squadrons and working on few more. As of January 30 ,2024 we have 52

squadron that haven't sent in their Officers Report, that one the things we all need to work on. Also as a reminder to receive your 2025 cards all squadrons are required to submit Squadron Officers Report, Membership Eligibility Verification, Squadron Data Report and Consolidated Squadron Report. Spring Conference will be starting in a month and SAL DEC meeting is to be held April 28, 2024 at Department Headquarters, hope to see you there.



**1st District Commander**  
Gerald Bennett

Legion family,

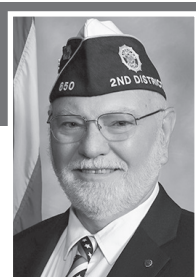
What a great Winter Conference and a great winter! Couldn't ask for nicer temps! The dog and I have been

getting in some trails!

I'll be visiting Post 54 in Victor this coming Friday to see National Commander Daniel Seehafer. Hope to see many of you there! Victor has really got it going on.

Mark your Calanders for April 13th. Columbus Junction post 100 will be hosting our spring conference.

For God and Country.



**2nd District Commander**  
Richard Bries

Hello and Greetings to 2nd District Legion Family. The 2024 Midwinter Conference held at the Airport Holiday Inn & Conference Center in Des Moines, is now in our history

book memories.

This year's information and training was second to none. Friday evening at the joint session, membership awards were given, and 2nd District received two. The first one presented went to Oxford Junction Post 473 (Colflesh Trophy), an award given to the District

with the highest membership growth over the previous year and to the Post within the District with the highest growth by November 11th. The second award presented was a gold watch that I received as Commander. This award is given to the Commander of the District in first place by the cutoff date of November 17, 2023. I thank you for getting your dues paid early, allowing 2nd District to achieve first place.

We had presentations from our 2023 Girls & Boys State. They each talked about their experience at the State and Nation. Boys and Girls State is an awesome program for young folks to be involved. You have until April 1st to sign someone up for the 2024 program.

Congratulations to Devya Ramadugu for winning

1st place in the District and Area Oratorical contest before going on to Department. Devya, sponsored by Post 298 Marion, placed 3rd at the Department and said she will be back next year.

Second District Conferences will be held April 19 & 20 at Blue Grass Post 711. If you need a "Call to Conference" please let me know, I will send you one.

Department Convention is 19-21 July at the Holiday Inn & Conference Center Des Moines, Iowa. Stay tuned for more information on the 2nd District Golf Outing (August 24th).

For God and Country

Be The One

**Department Adjutant's article continued from previous page**

membership. This is about doing what is right. If The American Legion can make our communities better places, we have the responsibility to do so.

We can become the centerpiece of every community again. But we can only do so by becoming active in

the service we provide. I encourage all posts to take on a new project of community service this year. It can be as grand as raising funds for a new community center, or as simple as organizing a blood drive. Whatever you decide to do, make sure the citizens of

your community are aware.

Let us take the "Iowa Idea", one of the founding pillars of The American Legion, and make it the cornerstone of our posts.



### 3rd District Commander Dixie Kapayou

3rd District Legionnaires,

This year is flying by! Where did it go? It has been a busy first half. I have visited quite a few posts and if I had not visited, I will try my best

to visit your post. By the time this article has gone to print these events would have happened. First, the Mid-Winter Conference has come and gone. If you have not attended, I highly encourage you to attend one in the future. Secondly, the National Commander will have visited 3rd District on February 17, locations are Meskwaki Nation Post 701, Tama at 10 am; and

Iowa Veterans Home Post 739, Marshalltown, at 1 pm. Lastly, 3rd District will have had our first Women's Veterans Health and Wellness Fair at Marshalltown Post 46 on February 24. We will have another one at a different post soon so be on the lookout. We will have flyers and announcements out, so to my Sister in Arms if you missed this first one, you still have an opportunity to attend the next.

Encouraging veterans to recruit new members can be challenging, but the potential benefits for both the individuals and the organization are significant. Remind them of the mission to serve veterans and their families. Emphasize the importance of building a strong veteran community where everyone can support each other. Highlight the individual benefits,

such as access to resources, community, camaraderie, and opportunities to give back. Remember, a strong membership translates to a stronger voice for veterans.

We will be holding our District Spring Conference, with a hospitality event on the evening of March 29, and the conference on March 30, in Tama, IA., hosted by Meskwaki Nation Robert Morgan Post 701 at the Meskwaki Veterans Convention Center, Meskwaki Bingo Casino Hotel, Tama, Iowa. I highly encourage Post Commanders and Adjutants to attend. Looking forward to seeing you there.

For God and Country,

Dixie Kapayou



### 4th District Commander Cindy Yslas

One of the biggest issues I hear about is when I visit various posts as the 4th District Commander is membership. While we, the American Legion, serve veterans who have served in the military for any period and received an Honorable Discharge from their specific service, the question remains, how do we keep our current members and how do we "find" new members to join our Post?

While we know that age plays a significant part in the longevity of a post, as members "age-out" and we lose them to illness and death. But what about the younger members of our post? We work hard to keep them each year by offering them a reason to stay. Any good and productive post knows their members well enough to know "what's in it for them?" Is it the events that your local post puts on each year? Is it the reputation of the organization in the community as a support structure for any veteran that needs

assistance with transition from the military? Perhaps it's the medical benefits from a VA package up for review, or a simply the comradery that so many veterans miss with other veterans since their days in uniform?

While we work hard to keep our current members, the unknown each year is where to find these "new members" that live amongst us. The best way to think of it is, they may be active-duty veterans today, but retired or separated tomorrow. But the numbers are not in our favor! We stand to lose 20,000 MORE military each year than enter the service in the first place. In 2023, our Department of Defense was made up of 2.86 military members between the 5 branches. 2,079,142 military and 778,539 civilians. So, with 180,000 entering the service each year and 200,000 leaving the service each year, why is it so hard to find these "new" members to the American Legion?

The answer is this? Do we truly know WHY they left the service, and can we support them in the civilian world? Can we, as the American Legion, offer them something that they may not even realize they need?

The answer of course is YES! Did they leave due to medical concerns or on-going conditions that will need care through the VA or local civilian hospitals and clinics? Did they leave due to a strong desire to spend more time with their family (and not deploy away from them on a regular basis)? Are we offering family events that the Veteran can bring their family to to meet this desire to spend time with their family? Or did they only serve for 2 or 3 years and don't feel "like a real veteran"? It's our job to tap into this and remind them just how much of a "real veteran" they truly are.

So, as you see our youth graduate high school and join the various branches of the service, follow their progress and watch to see if they return home after 2, 4 or maybe 20 years. Welcome them (and often their new families) back with open arms. Look for the guy at the gas station in town or the grocery store wearing the Army hat or Air Force sweatshirt and start up a conversation...and then, just invite them to coffee...they rest will fall into place with just a kind word and a simple hello!



### 5th District Commander Gary J. Quinlan

Hello 5th District Legion Family,

We are heading down the home stretch for another membership year. Spent the 1st weekend of February at Mid-Winter Conference.

Which is always a good time catching up with my legion family. Training this year was top notch like always. Our Department Staff

is always great to work with. I would be hard pressed to find another state that has a better one.

A few events are coming up. 1st The National Commander visited February 16th-17th. Hopefully everyone made it if they could. 5th District Spring Conference is scheduled for April 20th. At Morrison-Schrader Post 296 in Deep River, Ia. Memorial Day Weekend 5.25.24 The American Legion of Iowa will be sponsoring a 5K/1K Run or walk at Gray's Lake Park in Des Moines. Volunteers will be needed. Also, there is Leadership School May 31st thru June 2nd that is for anyone who wants to be a leader in the American Legion. Each District is allowed 6 participants.

Membership is what makes all this go on. Hopefully you are aware that the department and National had

due increases. If your membership is current, you are still receiving notifications to pay your dues. You might want to get ahold of your posts to make sure everything is correct.

5th District will have a few leadership positions opening for the 2024/25 year.

Vice Commanders and SGT of Arms and an Adjunct. Please contact me if you have any questions.

For God and Country

## Greetings, loyal readers!

Mid-Winter is gone, District Conferences are underway, and Easter is early this year. Hopefully, all your current members have renewed and now you can focus on finding new members.

When adding a new member to your Post, you may ask, "How do I do that?" If you do it online, you go into a transmittal like normal, then click "Add/Transfer Member." Select "New member- never been a TAL member or SAL member," then input all their information (anything with an asterisk must be filled out). Once you hit save, they'll be added to your transmittal and have their ID number assigned. You then finish your transmittal like usual. If you send membership to Department, you'll fill out the National/Department portions of a blank card from your stack and mail it in with a check and transmittal form like you usually do.

Other questions that you might have:

-Do I need to send a member data form or the application to Department? Nope! You can file the application away at your Post and save the MDFs for other things.

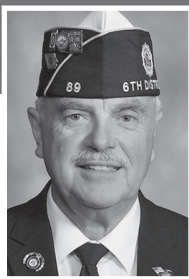
-Do I need to give my new member a card? Yes! You can fill out a blank one and provide that to the member, or you can print one from MyLegion once the payment processes.

If your new member is actually a member in another Post but new to you, then you'll follow the steps for Transferring.

Remember, membership awards are calculated 30 days prior to Convention, so you've still got some time to meet your goal. Good luck! And, if you've ever wondered how the Easter bunny leaves, he makes an eggs-it.

**Ann Haack**  
Membership Clerk





**6th District Commander  
Don De Kock**

As I start to write this article my thoughts go to all what has happened during the last while in the different Posts in the 6th District, within the District competitions, the Area competitions, and the Department. These thoughts make me excited for and proud of the number of great young people we have growing up in the great state of Iowa.

I want to say thank you to the Department Training Committee and all the individuals who were involved in putting together the Mid-Winter Conference. It was simply a great conference with many opportunities to learn and gather vital and much needed information.

As I think about all the Flag Essays that were written by our 5th grade students and the local Post winners being judged at the District level. I just want to say thank you to all the students who wrote an essay, the teachers who supported this program within their classrooms, those who were involved in conducting this program within their Posts, to those involved at the District level, and to all the judges at all levels.

Then came the Oratorical Contest. When I attended the 6th District Contest held at the Van Meter Post, I was amazed at the quality of speeches these three young ladies gave. The Area competition was held in Oskaloosa at Post 34 where the 6th District's two participants gave great and informative speeches.

But now I must start to ask questions of the Posts across the 6th District and across the Department of Iowa. Why did we only have three young ladies participating in this contest at our District level competition? Then we moved on to the Area competition where there were only two individuals who were participating in the Area competition. Both young ladies were from the 6th District. The bad part of the Area competition is that we had to say goodbye to Hadley Harvey, a great young lady who gave a great speech even though she was not feeling well that day. Then onto the Department competition at the Mid-Winter Conference with the three area winners again presenting three great speeches. I am extremely proud of Karli Roth, a young lady from the 6th District who won the Department of Iowa Oratorical Competition.

I want to thank all of those involved in the Oratorical Competition, from the Post level to the District level, to the Area level, and finally at the Department level including all the judges that were asked to give of their time for this competition.

But again, I must ask why. Why did my home Post quit being involved the Oratorical program, why did only three Posts in the 6th District sponsor a student who competed at the District level, and why was the 6th District the only District to sponsor any students who competed at our Area level competition?

I would really like to encourage each of you reading this article to think about the Programs of the American Legion. I ask each of you to think about how we can become more involved at the Post level in our communities and schools. How do we support and promote our programs? I don't want you to just think about the Flag Essay and the Oratorical programs, but also the sponsoring of a baseball team, Boys State, Girls State, Scouting, Junior Shooting Sports, and other programs, all of which would welcome additional participants. We need to become more involved in our youth. We need to become more involved in our future.

As veterans and members of this great organization we ask you to always remember to keep the salt spray in your face, the wind at your back, and to never forget whose hand is on the tiller that guides your life.



**7th District Commander  
Terry Joynes**

Hello Friends:

We have had a great year. Keep it going!

Keep up the good work on the

Buddy Check, veterans appreciate it very much and continue to spread the word on Be The One.

District 6 7 will have their Spring Conference March 9, 2024, in Glenwood, IA at the American Legion Hall.

The Department of Iowa Summer Convention will be July 19-21, 2024 at Des Moines Airport Holiday Inn. Hope to see you all there.

The Mid-Winter Conference was enjoyed by all. A lot of things are in the works. We will have more information coming on that soon. The young people did a wonderful job at the oratorical Finals. Hospitality went well.

Keep up all the good work you are doing, and I look forward to seeing you all at the Spring Conference and Summer Convention.



**8th District Commander  
Ken Fields**

8th District Legionnaires,

"There are no great people in this world, only great challenges which ordinary people rise to meet." These words spoken by Admiral William

"Bull" Halsey ring as true today as when he uttered them many years ago. The American Legion members are of this great breed of ordinary people rising to

meet the great challenges before us as we move forward.

At our Department Mid-Winter Conference there were many workshops available to attend that presented issues confronting our organization and provided resources, guidance, and discussions with many ordinary people that are rising to meet the challenges of the American Legion. If you haven't attended a Mid-Winter Conference or Department Convention you are missing out on the opportunity to participate, learn, discover, collect, and pass on valuable information to

fellow Legionnaires in your post.

The 8th District Spring Conference will be held April 6, 2024 at Iowa Central Community College in Fort Dodge, IA, hosted by Manilla Post 132. Registration and social time will begin at 0730 at the Biosciences and Health Sciences Building on the ICCC campus. This is an excellent opportunity to meet other members in the 8th District and discover what other Posts are doing in their community.



**9th District Commander  
Jim Rolfes**

Mid-Winter is over and what a conference it was.

The weather was great, the number of attendees reminded of conferences years back. The food and hospitality were also first rate.

The program fair with all the information and the workshops gave those present a reason to come back next year.

For the Ninth District, it was special. Many awards

given out by the Iowa Foundation went to Ninth District members.

Auxiliary President Sandi, SAL advisor James Dean and I as 9th District Commander, was onstage to accept the Unity Award, given to the district with the highest combined percentage of membership at the membership turn-in in November. Thank you to all that sent in membership so that could have been done... Don't give up now. We have 15 posts that are target and 43 posts need only 1 - 5 members to make target. Let's make that extra effort to reach a goal and 300 points toward the 1000-point post plaque. I sent out the names of 44 members, that have paid their 2024 dues and belong to Post 729, to posts in their

area. 2 posts received 5 names each, but I haven't seen any transfers on the membership report. WHY NOT?? Contact them now, we could use 44 transfers.

We have a date for Spring Conference... It will be in Holstein on April 27. Holstein always hosts a great conference and is centrally located, so mark your calendar. Check Korn Kernal's for more details. Get those boys states registered so we can have a great Boy State. Orientation on 4/28 in Spencer and 5/5 in Le Mars...

Our sympathies go out to Jim Kessler for the passing of his wife Marilyn and to the Valentine family with the loss of Dept. Secretary Marlene.

THE AMERICAN LEGION OF IOWA		
Statement of Financial Position		
June 30,		
	2023	2022
<b>Assets</b>		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$(185,830)	\$1,129
Restricted Cash	469,209	577,390
Certificates of Deposit - Restricted	--	160,733
Investments - Restricted	266,634	--
Receivables		
Interest	--	39
Other	15,063	13,498
Prepaid Insurance	1,730	3,017
Prepaid Expenses	16,834	12,713
Operating Lease Right of Use Asset	24,488	--
Land, at Cost	46,610	46,610
Buildings and Equipment, at Cost, Less Accumulated		
Depreciation of: 2021 - \$553,711 and 2020 - \$542,485	152,585	72,839
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$807,323</b>	<b>\$887,968</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Accounts Payable		
Trade	\$14,159	\$14,504
Due to Districts, Other Entities, and Other Funds	50,762	40,692
Other	62,336	62,098
Deferred Revenue	7,768	--
Accrued Expenses		
Compensated Absences	33,810	31,079
Loan Payable	24,488	--
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>193,323</b>	<b>148,373</b>
<b>Net Assets (Deficit)</b>		
Unrestricted	362,361	464,880
Temporarily Restricted	251,639	274,715
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>614,000</b>	<b>739,595</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$807,323</b>	<b>\$887,968</b>
<b>Statement of Activities and Changes in Net Assets</b>		
Year Ended June 30,		
	2023	2022
<b>Revenue</b>		
Dues	\$524,673	\$554,195
Investment Income	11,404	199
Fundraising Income	125,666	195,197
Legion Insurance Trust	37,736	86,745
USAA Insurance	--	23,514
Other		
Contributions	88,408	25,602
Miscellaneous	17,303	29,539
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>805,190</b>	<b>914,991</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Program Services		
Service Office	\$179,929	\$207,520
Meetings and Conventions	45,257	28,123
Commissions	76,957	69,728
Iowa Legionnaire	66,432	48,245
Patriotic	199	--
Vets of Valor	7,435	21,513
<b>Total Program Services</b>	<b>376,209</b>	<b>375,129</b>
Fundraising	95,853	110,732
Supporting Services		
General Administration	458,723	437,205
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>930,785</b>	<b>923,066</b>
<b>Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets</b>	<b>(125,595)</b>	<b>(8,075)</b>
<b>Transfer of Net Assets</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>--</b>
<b>Net Assets - Beginning of Year</b>	<b>739,595</b>	<b>747,670</b>
<b>Net Assets - End of Year</b>	<b>\$614,000</b>	<b>\$739,595</b>

AMERICAN LEGION BOYS STATE		
Statements of Financial Position		
September 30,		
	2023	2022
<b>Assets</b>		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$18,480	\$66,629
Investments	26,656	--
Prepaid Expense	3,258	490
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$48,394</b>	<b>\$67,119</b>
<b>Liabilities and Net Assets</b>		
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Accounts Payable	\$8,876	\$15,472
Scholarships Payable	3,000	2,250
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>11,876</b>	<b>17,722</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		
Unrestricted	26,818	40,197
Temporarily Restricted	9,700	9,200
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>36,518</b>	<b>49,397</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$48,394</b>	<b>\$67,119</b>
<b>Statements of Activities and Changes in Net Assets</b>		
Years Ended September 30,		
	2023	2022
<b>Revenue</b>		
Fees	\$91,550	\$62,750
Donations	6,967	1,897
Sales - Special Merchandise	3,044	2,260
Investment Income (Loss)	(461)	--
Miscellaneous	1,335	1,250
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	--	--
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>102,435</b>	<b>68,157</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Program Expenses		
Camp		
Mess	46,495	43,622
Camp Personnel	5,040	5,279
Supplies	11,003	9,595
Rent	29,264	29,390
Printing	996	1,001
Insurance	6,073	5,890
Directors and Speakers	1,295	1,995
Meeting Expense	1,279	1,287
Postage Expense	696	462
Photos and CDs	1,927	2,090
Scholarships and Awards	3,832	1,863
Bank Charges	1,342	1
Special Purchases	569	4,897
Miscellaneous	375	600
<b>Total Program Expenses</b>	<b>110,186</b>	<b>107,972</b>
Supporting Services		
Professionals Fees	5,128	4,726
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>115,314</b>	<b>112,698</b>
<b>Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets</b>	<b>(12,879)</b>	<b>(44,541)</b>
<b>Net Assets at Beginning of Year</b>	<b>49,397</b>	<b>93,938</b>
<b>Net Assets at End of Year</b>	<b>\$36,518</b>	<b>\$49,397</b>

AMERICAN LEGION OF IOWA FOUNDATION		
Balance Sheets		
September 30,		
	2023	2022
<b>Assets</b>		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$48,511	\$89,994
Receivable - Related Party	--	--
Prepaid Expense	1,805	--
Investments	2,069,423	1,984,809
Investments - Rummel Trust	51,592	50,401
Investments - 40 & 8 Trust	50,798	49,626
Investments - Keith Baker Scholarship Fund	23,747	23,199
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$2,245,876</b>	<b>\$2,198,029</b>
<b>Liabilities and Net Assets</b>		
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Payables		
Accounts Payable	\$2,826	\$8,379
Awards Payable	3,812	2,500
Scholarships Payable	53,750	48,750
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>60,388</b>	<b>59,629</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		
Unrestricted	2,059,351	2,015,174
Restricted	126,137	123,226
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>2,185,488</b>	<b>2,138,400</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$2,245,876</b>	<b>\$2,198,029</b>
<b>Statement of Activities and Changes in Net Assets</b>		
Years Ended September 30,		
	2023	2022
<b>Revenues</b>		
Contributions	\$42,483	\$41,518
Interest and Dividend Income	56,094	54,787
Gain on Sale of Investments	29,354	105,566
Scholarship and Award Expiration	7,875	13,100
Net Assets Released from Restriction	--	--
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>135,806</b>	<b>214,971</b>
<b>Awards and Scholarships</b>	<b>110,648</b>	<b>115,857</b>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>		
Trustee Fee	13,249	13,976
Audit and Income Tax Return	7,642	6,242
Insurance	1,803	1,711
Meeting Expense	2,088	2,221
Supplies	5,023	4,654
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>29,805</b>	<b>28,804</b>
<b>Change in Net Assets Before Unrealized Gain (Loss)</b>	<b>(4,647)</b>	<b>70,310</b>
<b>Net Unrealized Gain (Loss) on Investments</b>	<b>51,735</b>	<b>(365,163)</b>
<b>Change in Net Assets</b>	<b>47,088</b>	<b>(294,853)</b>
<b>Net Assets at Beginning of Year</b>	<b>2,138,400</b>	<b>2,433,253</b>
<b>Net Assets at End of Year</b>	<b>\$2,185,488</b>	<b>\$2,138,400</b>

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](mailto: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.





# AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

## DEPARTMENT OF IOWA

### *Auxiliary Communique*

SERVING VETERANS, THEIR FAMILIES AND THEIR COMMUNITIES



SPRING 2024

PAGE 7



**Auxiliary President**  
Mary Sypherd

Greetings American Legion family,  
Well mid-winter is here and gone. As I have always said "Mid-winter is a time to regroup, connect with old friends and make new friends.

I want to thank all the committee chairman who brought my idea to life. I received great comments on how they enjoyed the presentations, and learned a lot.

It was so great to see several new attendees this year.

A huge thank you to the presenters who came to share from; VA S.A.V.E. ,Buddy checks, Be the One. We learned that there are different ways we can fulfill the Be the One mission, Castaways and Miracles in Motion.

I would like to thank the SAL for helping to make the junior activities come back from the past. I believe that if the juniors and young SAL members have things to do that they enjoy, to learn and have fun it will boost attendance.

Congratulations to the Oratorical participants. Even though there can only be one first place winner, you were all winners. WOW!

Commander Stan and I had the privilege of attending the Lincoln Pilgrimage, we were honored to represent Iowa in placing a wreath at Lincoln's tomb, and we even rubbed Lincoln's nose for good luck.

I am looking forward to the National Commander's visit, the spring senior and junior conferences. The National Presidents visit in May along with the VVMF dedication mid May along with junior camp and girls state and boys state. Look for dates on social media.

**"Hats off to Our Veterans"**  
President Mary



**Auxiliary Vice President**  
Verlinda Prior

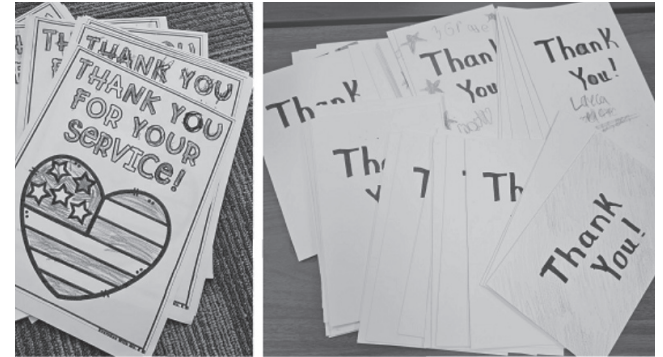
#### **Leadership**

I hope everyone had a wonderful time at Mid-Winter. The presentations were informative and enjoyable, and I want to give a huge shoutout to President Mary for putting together a fantastic program. We received a lot of information in a fun and enjoyable way. The skits were fun. Her two projects were presented well, and I now have a much better understanding of them.

There is not much time left to nominate your unit member of the year and send it to your district. I'm sure several Auxiliary members are qualified, so please make sure to do this. As the spring conferences approach, I'm hoping to receive nine entries for Department member of the Year.

Remember to mentor your juniors as they are the future of our organization. Communication is key to improving ourselves and our work, so let us make sure to keep communicating. The more we share about our programs the more we will grow.

**Leadership Chair**  
Vice President Verlinda Prior



#### **Card of Thanks**

On behalf of the Iowa American Legion Auxiliary Girls State board, I sincerely wish to thank the Department of Iowa's members of the American Legion Family for their most generous contributions that were given to the Girls State program. The mid-winter conference silent auction had an exceptional outcome because of the wonderful units, individuals, counties, and districts that donated and because of the wonderful members that bid on the merchandise. We on the board cannot tell you how grateful we are because of your generosity. A huge thank you to each of you for supporting the Iowa American Legion Auxiliary Girls State program.

**Sharing of service,**  
Bev Cople- Director



**American Legion  
Auxiliary  
Department of Iowa  
Juniors Convention**

**Friday, June 7, 2024**

**9:00 AM**

**Newton Christian Conference Center**



**2nd District President  
Teresa Kramer**

Hello ladies of the 2nd District. I hope you are all enjoying this very mild mid-winter weather that we are experiencing after having such a cold, snowy weather in early

January. We are now past Mid-Winter Conference and soon we will be holding our Spring County and District Conferences. I would love to attend any County meetings for those that have them. Just email the dates to me so I can mark them on the calendar. As most of you know, our Spring Conference will be April 19-20th in Blue Grass. I sent out the Call to Conference with the information and reservation form to all the Unit Presidents. If you need a copy, please email me

and I can get one to you. In order for Blue Grass to plan accordingly, they as that you get the money for the banquet to them by March 18th. Don't forget about the "Can Challenge," that I put out as our fundraiser for our Merit Scholarships. I also want to urge everyone to go out a get a new membership. Until I see you all at the District meeting, please enjoy the rest of your winter! Hat's off to our Veterans!



**4th District President  
Dee Onken**

Mid-Winter Conference was full of information. Department President Mary's special presentations on her two projects, Veterans Casting Away Disabilities and Miracles in Motion, are two amazing programs for our Veterans.

district standing, but I know we can continue back up the ladder with our continued work together to get it done.

Be the One is something to remember the first of every month. Anyone needing assistance can call 988 and press 1 for Veterans Crisis Line. S.-signs – A. –Ask – V. –validate- E. – Encourage

Buddy Checks to your unit members is a plus to try doing for your unit. People love to know we care.

Fourth District Spring Conference – please mark your calendars for March 24th (date change) in Oelwein. Legion and Auxiliary will start out the Legion Post,

108 1st St. SE. After the 8:15 joint memorial service the Legionnaire will depart to the Oelwein VFW, 120 N Frederick Ave., for their meeting. The Auxiliary will remain at the Post for our meeting. Registrations start at 7:30 am. Department President Mary and Department Director Crystal will be joining us, with other possible guests. Units please remember to share your great activities reports. Hope to see you there.

Please make plans to attend Department Convention July 18-21 in Des Moines at the Airport Holiday Inn.

Thank you for all you do our veterans!!

Membership is something we can all continue to work on. At Mid-Winter we have now dropped in our



**Poppy Chair**

What a great Mid-Winter we had! So much amazing and Fun information shared! Keep in mind year end reports are due by April 30, 2024, and National Poppy Day is the Friday Before Memorial Day May 24th. Poppy Posters are due to me by May 15th and poppy corsages are due the first day of camp and will be returned on Friday before they leave camp or dept convention. Thank you to everyone entering the poppy contest at mid-winter. All the pieces were beautiful and hard to make decisions. The Small centerpiece: Karen Johnson 9th, The large centerpiece: Teresa Kramer 2nd, Poppy Craft work: Wendy Riddle 3rd, People's Choice: Elaine Brookins 4th, Junior Choice: Kristi Bridges 5th, Poppy Hat: Melinda Habben 8th. Get ready to get out and distribute those beautiful poppies, remember the younger members can bring in more dough for the organization and love helping, this is a great way to work as a family! Looking forward to hearing all about it in your year-end reports!

**Rosemary Lancaster  
Poppy Chair**

**American Legion Auxiliary of Iowa  
2023-2024 VA Facility Visits**

The annual visits of Veterans Affairs Health Care System facilities serving the veterans of Iowa and the Iowa Veterans Home have resumed. Below is a schedule of tours for this year. All Legion, Auxiliary, and SAL members are welcome to participate.

<b>March 8</b> 1:00 pm	<b>Omaha VA Medical Center</b> 4101 Woolworth Avenue Omaha, NE 68105-1850	North Entrance Meet at Ambulatory Care Center
<b>March 29</b> 1:00 pm	<b>Iowa Veterans Home</b> 1301 Summit Street Marshalltown, IA 50158	Main Entrance Sheeler Building National Vietnam Veterans Day
<b>April 12</b> 1:00 pm	<b>Iowa City VA Medical Center</b> 601 Highway 6 West Iowa City, IA 52246	Details not yet available
<b>April 19</b> 1:00 pm	<b>Des Moines VA Medical Center</b> 3600 30th Street Des Moines, IA 50310	Details not yet available
	<b>Royal C. Johnson Veterans' Memorial Hospital</b> 2501 West 22 <sup>nd</sup> Street Sioux Falls, SD 57105	Not scheduled for Spring 2024





### 9th District President Sandi Cox

Hello from 9th District!

It was so nice to see everyone at Mid-Winter. This was the first time that I was able to attend Mid-Winter Conference. I thoroughly enjoyed it. Thank you President Mary for putting on a fun, informative conference. If you have never been to Mid-Winter, I encourage you to go next year. I came home with so much information.

9th District American Legion Family won the Unity

Award. District Commander Jim Rolfes, SAL Advisor James Dean & myself were on hand to accept the award at Mid-Winter. The Unity Award is given to the District with the highest percentage of combined membership of the Legion, Auxiliary and the SAL on the cutoff date of November 17. A BIG THANK YOU to all of you in 9th District for getting your membership in and supporting our District. I do have some sad news, as since then 9th District Auxiliary has slipped to 2nd place in the standings. Iowa is only at 76.82% for membership as of February 7th. Remember, membership is everyone's job, not just the membership chairman and the Unit President. Let's all work to get Iowa to 100% for President Mary and

9th District back to 1st place.

Spring Conference will be at the American Legion Hall in Holstein on April 27th. There will be a get together the night before in Holstein. Registration & coffee is at 8:00am, Executive Board meeting is at 8:30, and Joint Opening with the Legion is at 9:00. More details will be in the Korn Kernels. Ask your Unit President for more information if you do not receive the Korn Kernels. If you have never been to a District Conference meeting or it's been a while, please come. This is a great time to make new friends. We need your participation in our organization to continue the work that we do for our Veterans. I am looking forward to seeing everyone at Spring Conference.

## Department of Iowa Finance

The Department of Iowa Finance team met prior to Midwinter conference to secure some recommendations for the utilization of Gold Club Funds as well as review the Wish Lists received from the VA Medical Center representatives.

With the approval of the DEC at their meeting on Friday Morning \$1000 from the Gold Club was given to the American Legion Department of Iowa to aid in the updating of the department facilities.

Wish list funds to the tune of over \$10,000 was split and given to each of the VAMC to be used for their wish lists. A few of the requests are: Bowling Ramp, Craft Supplies, Ham Radio Antenna, 32" TV, Gift cards for food and gas, Shooting Sports dues, Catrike (hand driven bike), Baby shower diaper bags, and a Bariatric Scooter.

Has your unit noticed that members are paying online? Where is your portion of the money? Every couple of weeks the Department of Iowa receives the Department and (if any) the unit portion of those dues received via the online payment method. In November if your unit had funds from either online OR PUFL members totaling over \$10 those checks were issued and sent to you our next mailing of those checks over \$10 will be in May. Most of the members paying online have no funds going back to the individual unit. What happens to funds under that \$10 threshold? At the end of the fiscal year credit memos are issued and those funds applied to the next years obligation forms.

Now is a good time to reevaluate your unit dues.

Unit data forms are due April 15th. Remember, the Department of Iowa had a dues increase effective with the 2025 dues year. Your unit dues must reflect at least a \$28 membership dues rate for 2025 membership year. This is the amount due to the National organization (\$18) and the Department organization (\$10) You can find that unit data form here: <https://iowaala.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/2024-25-data-form-Direct-Billing.pdf>

Let's talk obligations. The Department of Iowa still has over \$1300 in unit unpaid obligations. These obligations were due October 20, 2023. The District Presidents are given a list every couple of weeks showing those units that are now delinquent. This list also includes those members who have signed up for ALAMIS and have not paid their invoice. If you no longer want to have access to ALAMIS simply call the office and have your name removed.

Lastly, let's talk about AEF, Child Welfare, Creative Arts and other donations made to the Department of Iowa. Funds received for the VA Medical Centers are immediately deposited into their individual accounts and a monthly report is sent to them. AEF, Child Welfare and Creative Arts are distributed at a minimum of annually with anything over \$75 in the individual account distributed quarterly, generally the second month of the quarter.

As always feel free to contact any of the Department Finance team or the Department office with your questions.

**Dawn Aberle**  
**Ann Crawford**  
**Regina Chock**

## Greetings from your Department Historian!



It was great to see everyone at Mid-Winter Conference this month and what a fun weekend! Lots of great reports and knowledge to take home to our units, counties, and districts.

The programs fair was a wonderful time to get acquainted with new ideas and meet new people with the Legion Family. If you stopped at my table, I had a short survey to find out who is/was your "Mentor" I was overwhelmed with the great response and after compiling all the information, the answers were so consistent. Many of the answers were: Asked to join the Legion family, encouragement to become an officer, whether unit, county, district, or department. Taught me how to run a meeting. To revive a unit that was about to close to become active again. To serve our veterans. Some junior members responded by: Teaching me the Preamble, learning about the flag, and helping veterans.

Membership was listed many times and what a great reason to be involved in the Legion Family. If we did not have members, we could not do the wonderful programs to serve our veterans, youth, and community.

Mentors are so important to keep members to continue to grow and keep us motivated, growing, and making a difference.

It was sad to hear some members say, they did not have a mentor to help them. This was another reason when we all need to step up and share our knowledge, patience, and encouragement to new members.

If you are the Historian for your unit, junior or district, I will have a Historian's Book contest this year. Please read the Plan of Action for guidance and submit to my address by May 30th. I know you are all active and have lots to share.

Units are encouraged to send their History report to me by April 30th.

Please send your pictures, news articles, programs to me to add to Department President Mary's book. She would love to see you taking your "Hats off to Veterans" and being involved in community activities. My contact information is in the blue book or plan of action.

**Patti Rolf,**  
**Department Historian**

## "What's in the Bag"

**When: Department Convention, July 19, 2024**

**Where: The domed atrium**

**Time: Set up – 10:00 – 12:00**

**Bidding starts – 12:00**

- The bags can include purses, backpacks, suitcases, briefcases, etc. of good quality, including slightly used.
- Each bag must have a tag with a hint of the contents attached.

Each district has been asked to donate a themed basket also.

Please consider donating an item for your District's Basket!

**Bonus!!!!** Top selling Basket

that District will receive \$50.00 towards their District President's Project.

**Thank you for your continued support!**  
**The Junior Camp Board & Campers**



## Harness the Power of Growing Memberships for 2024

The American Legion Auxiliary has demonstrated remarkable success in expanding its membership. In mid-December, the American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters Membership Division announced an increase in total membership for 2023 compared to 2022. This marks the first time in two decades that the organization has experienced growth in its membership. Let us continue to work together to support our heroes and make a positive impact in our communities.

Important dates to note:

- (National) - Units who reached 100% by January 31st will receive a ribbon for their unit flags.
- (National) - Departments reaching 85% by March 15th will receive \$85 to further the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary
- (Department) - Units reaching 100% plus by Iowa's Department President Mary's birthday, March 13th will receive a certificate of recognition.

A heartfelt "Thank You" for your generous hat donations! ALA membership team member Shelley Conover presents the first hat donation to the June E. Nylen Cancer Center in Sioux City, IA. This state-of-the-art facility accommodates over 6,000 patients across a 15-county region and strives to provide hope and healing to about 150 patients daily.

Together, we make a difference in the lives of veterans and their families. Thank you for your unwavering commitment to our mission to serve veterans, educate citizens, mentor youth, and promote patriotism. Renew your American Legion Auxiliary membership today and be inspired!

**Hats Off to Our Veterans,**

**Angie Blazek, Elaine Brookins & Shelley Conover**



## The American Legion Auxiliary National Security Program is to:

- Maintain and promote a strong national defense by strengthening and supporting military servicemembers and their families.

Here are some ways to support our active military Service members:

- Show support for our deployed by observing RED Fridays.
- Contact the FRG (Family Readiness Group) on your nearby installation to ask what you can do.
- Send care packages to our deployed servicemembers.
- Support military spouses who are left behind when their servicemember deploys. Remember they are now a one parent family.
- Post a POW/MIA flag at Unit meetings.
- Award a Quilt of Valor to a Servicemember.
- Help citizens be prepared for national disasters such as tornados, blizzards, floods, and man-made disasters and emergencies.
- These are a few of the ways we can support our troops and their families but there are many more. Brainstorm with your Unit, check the National or Department website for more ideas.

Year End Report Deadlines

Unit Yearend Report: April 30, 2024.

Send to me: Wendy Riggle, 1625 53rd St, La Porte City, IA 50651

Salute to Servicemember: June 1, 2024 (Iowa had a winner last year. Let's get another one this year.) (Check National Website for details.)

## Marketing

Just ask. It's easy, it's impactful, it's the right thing to do. As the first department to launch a marketing program, we continue to focus on the simple marketing theme of "Just Ask." Any of us can "Just Ask" for donations, whatever we need for programs, events and projects. Yet, it's more than that, we need to

**"Just Ask" ——— "Just Acknowledge" ——— "Just Measure"**

We need to say thank you and we need to include donations on our impact reports:

- Member: <https://iowaala.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Impact-Report-Form-Member.pdf>
- Unit: <https://iowaala.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Impact-Report-Form-Unit.pdf>
- County/District: <https://iowaala.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Impact-Report-Form-District.docx>

Since mid-winter, it's important to expand upon this "Just" phrase, we need to add another "Just" word and it's "Just Announce" meaning donations need to be included in social media, programs, brochures and other forms of communications.

As shared at the mid-winter conference, we must increase enthusiasm and engagement. We want your unit to be the inaugural "Marketing Unit of the Year." The winner will be announced at the Department Convention in July. This will be measured by outreach to businesses, foundations and individuals. The report should include a summary and pictures. Please send to me at [krippenger@outlook.com](mailto:krippenger@outlook.com) by April 30, 2024.

We are all mission driven - we're all in this together and together, we can achieve results. We want to make an impact.

Thanks again for all of your support and encouragement!



## ALA Junior Camp Registration

**June 2-7, 2024 (Sunday - Friday)**

**Christian Conference Center • Newton, Ia**

**Cost: \$300.00.**

**Registration begins**

**February 15, 2024 to April 1, 2024**

**on the ALA website, Click on Forms**

## Hey Junior Campers!!!!!!

How would you like to be recognized at Department Junior Convention and Department Senior Convention this year as our

**"Hats off to the Star Campers"**

What does that mean? If you recruit one junior member to join us at Junior Camp, you and your friend will be recognized at both, Junior and Senior Conventions PLUS each of you will receive a gift card!

What do you need to do? Just ask any of your Junior Auxiliary friends that haven't attended camp before to come for the week and join in on all the activities and make new friends. You can also ask a friend if they are eligible to become a member of the Auxiliary and if they are when they join, then they can also attend camp.

**So Juniors, remember**

**"Hats off to the Star Campers"**

For more information, go to [www.iowaala.org](http://www.iowaala.org) website, click on forms, click on Junior Camp, click on "Hats off to the Star Campers"

**DO IT** for  
Your Community



### 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 – Bo Brecount, Van Buren County Elem, Post 494, Douds, IA
- 2nd District – Bently Ernst, Bellevue Elem, Post 273, Bellevue, IA
- 3rd District -Caraline Mefford, Shellsburg Elem, Post 57, Vinton, IA
- 4th District -Keigan Kleve, North Fayette Valley Elem, Post 352, Elgin, IA
- 5th District -Lennox Simpson, Montezuma Elem, Post 296, Deep River, IA
- 6th District -Leo Simons, Van Meter Elem, Post 403, Van Meter, IA
- 7th District – Hailey Geraghty, AHSTW Elem, Post 227, Avoca, IA
- 8th District – Athan Denton, Boyer Valley Elem, Post 444, Dow City, IA
- 9th District – Quinton Hart, Akron-Westfield Elem, Post 186, Akron, IA

#### 1st Place winner 5th Grade Flag Essay – Department of Iowa 2023 -2024

Bently Ernst is the 5th Grade Flag Essay winner in the Department of Iowa.

She attends Bellevue Elementary School in Bellevue, and her entry was submitted by the Reveille Legion Post #273 in the 2nd District.

#### 2nd Place winner 5th Grade Flag Essay – Department of Iowa 2023 -2024

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

He attends Boyer Valley Elementary in Dow City, and his entry was submitted by the Dow City American Legion Post #444 in the 8th District.

#### 3rd Place winner 5th Grade Flag Essay – Department of Iowa 2023 -2024

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

She attends AHSTW Elementary in Avoca, and her entry was submitted by the Fred Funston American Legion Post #227 in the 7th District.

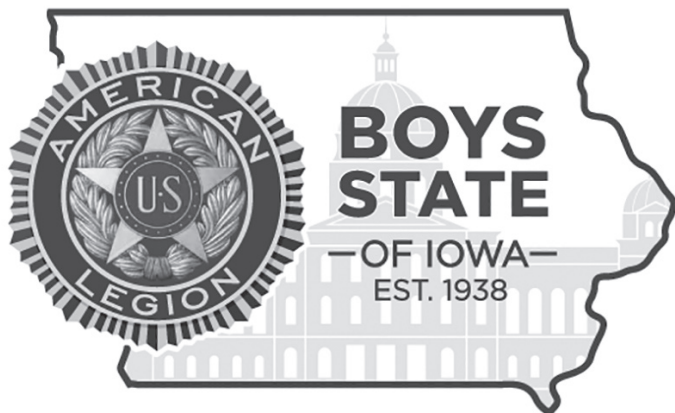
The Children and Youth Committee, Department of Iowa, is very proud of our winners and we are proud of all the students' efforts throughout the Department and appreciate the support they received from their teachers and school districts. This could not have been achieved without the post's initiative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

### HELLO LEGIONAIRES

The dates (23-28 June) for Boys State are quickly approaching. As of 14 February we have 66 attendees signed up. We are shooting for 300+ for this year so please keep trying.

We still need Counselors, if you're not busy come spend the week with us, learn what we do and share your experiences with our attendees. Remind your Juniors about the Scholarships available, Samsung Scholarship, Keith Baker Scholarship, Donald Johnson (Iowa Foundation), Andy Haverman Scholarship and many others. Let's have a fun, Safe and Eventful week this year At Boys State.

**Brian D. Ring Sr.**  
President  
Boys State  
Board



### HELLO IOWA LEGIONAIRES

As of 13 February, we are at 31,683 (91.52%) paid members, We are 534 members ahead of our 90% goal due in March 2024.

#### 100% Post Incentive

- All Post with 100% membership by 1 May 2024
- These Post will be added to a drawing
- 6 Department of IOWA Post will be receiving \$500, for their hard work.

As of 9 February 2024, Iowa has 85 Post are at 100% or above:

- \*1st District has 5 Post
- \*2nd District has 1 Post
- \*3rd District has 12 Post
- \*4th District has 9 Post
- \*5th District has 4 Post
- \*6th District has 7 Post
- \*7th District has 11 Post
- \*8th District has 23 Post
- \*9th District has 13 Post

Our 729 Post has 824 paid members and are at 122% of the 674-member goal.

#### TEAM IOWA keep up the good work, no reason we cannot hit 100% as a Department this year

**Brian D. Ring Sr.**  
**Tim McLaughlin**  
Membership

### 2024 Spring Conferences

March 9 7th District Glenwood Stanley Elliott, Department Commander  
Bob Waugh, Alternate NEC  
Teresa Shaw, Business Manager  
Shane Pankonen, Service Officer

March 23 4th District Oelwein Stanley Elliott, Department Commander  
Dennis Soppe, NEC  
John Derner, Department Adjutant  
Josey Pester, Claims Representative

March 30 3rd District Tama Stanley Elliott, Department Commander  
Dennis Soppe, NEC  
John Derner, Department Adjutant  
Steve Sutton, Service Officer

April 6 8th District Fort Dodge Stanley Elliott, Department Commander  
Dennis Soppe, NEC  
John Derner, Department Adjutant  
Shane Pankonen, Service Officer

April 13 1st District Columbus Jct Stanley Elliott, Department Commander  
Bob Waugh, Alternate NEC  
Eric Less, Programs Director  
Steve Sutton, Service Officer

April 20 2nd District Blue Grass Steve Colcord, Dept Vice Commander  
Dennis Soppe, NEC  
Ann Haack, Membership Clerk  
Josey Pester, Claims Representative

April 20 5th District Deep River Sam Blumer, Dept Vice Commander  
Bob Waugh, Alternate NEC  
John Derner, Department Adjutant

April 20 6th District Cumming Stanley Elliott, Department Commander  
Eric Less, Programs Director  
Shane Pankonen, Service Officer

April 27 9th District Holstein Stanley Elliott, Department Commander  
Dennis Soppe, NEC  
Eric Less, Programs Director  
Josey Pester, Claims Representative

April 28 SAL Des Moines Stanley Elliott, Department Commander  
Bob Waugh, Alternate NEC  
Ann Haack, Membership Clerk





## CENTRAL IOWA LOCATIONS

**Ames  
Donor Center**  
819 Wheeler Street  
Suite 1

**Downtown  
Donor Center**  
580 SW 9th Street  
Suite 112

**Ankeny  
Donor Center**  
1555 SE Delaware Ave  
Suite J

**Urbandale  
Donor Center**  
10469 Hickman Road

**Des Moines  
Donor Center**  
431 East Locust Street

**West Des Moines  
Donor Center**  
4800 Mills Civic Parkway  
Suite 109

Call: 800.287.4903 | Live Chat: [lifeserve.info/chat](https://lifeserve.info/chat)  
Visit: [lifeservebloodcenter.org](https://lifeservebloodcenter.org)



LifeServe Blood Center is your community, non-profit blood center, serving more than 160 hospitals across Iowa, Nebraska, and South Dakota by providing access to a safe, quality blood supply for hospital patients in their critical time of need. Founded in 1947 by the Des Moines Hospital Council, LifeServe is one of the 15 largest blood centers in the country, dedicated to providing the highest quality blood products.

LifeServe operates 27 facilities across the tri-state region, including 14 donor centers, five of which are conveniently located in the Des Moines metro. LifeServe Blood Center only collects blood in areas where we support the local hospital. LifeServe will not come into your community to collect blood if we do not service a hospital within that area.

It is easy to become involved in our lifesaving mission! Helping your community through blood donation starts by rolling up a sleeve. Whole blood, double red blood cells, platelets, and plasma are collected by our dedicated

team of phlebotomists and transferred to LifeServe Blood Center's state of the art laboratory facilities to undergo fourteen different tests to ensure the highest quality blood products are available for hospital patients in our community.

As an independent, community-based blood collection organization, LifeServe Blood Center is a leader in the industry; offering healthcare solutions in transfusion medicine, cellular therapy and research programs. LifeServe's holistic approach to providing value and solutions on a local level builds trust with patients and confidence with hospitals. LifeServe strives to provide the right product to the right patient at the right time by maintaining a stable, quality blood supply for the community. LifeServe Blood Center is your blood, your hospital, your neighbor, and we are proud to support and partner with the Des Moines community by providing a strong and stable blood supply.



### National Convention August 23 - August 29, 2024 New Orleans, Louisiana

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, 2024.

### 2024 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@ialpa.org](mailto:programs@ialpa.org), by the April 30 deadline. Rules are available at [www.ialpa.org](http://www.ialpa.org).

#### 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.

### American Legion of Iowa Foundation Iowa Legionnaire – Spring 2024

The Board of Directors of the American Legion of Iowa Foundation is beginning preparation for the biggest meeting of the year, the hardest meeting of the year and the most fun meeting of the year. That is our annual meeting, the meeting where we make the decisions on which grant requests should be fulfilled and then elect our officers for the coming year. Making those decisions is fun but it can be very hard since we always have more requests than we can fill. We read all the requests ahead of the meeting so that discussion can focus on the decisions to be made. It is also the biggest meeting of the year since that meeting starts at 10 and will generally run until somewhere between 3 and 4 that afternoon.

Now that I think about it a little more, maybe it isn't the most fun meeting of the year. We met with the joint membership group at Midwinter conference a few weeks ago. I was not able to be there as President, thank you to Leonard Ernst for standing in for me. That is always a fun time since we spend a few minutes recognizing the donors that have reached significant milestones for the foundation.

We had a bigger group than usual this year. We were able to recognize one donor whose generosity has only been matched a few times. Dr. Dan McClure was presented the Guardian Award plaque which is reserved for those whose donations exceed \$10,000 Other American Legion business kept me from attending to present this award myself but be assured, at the first opportunity I will shake his hand and give him my utmost thanks.

Dr. Dan and all our donors deserve everyone's thanks. All the good work that the Foundation supports both inside and outside the Legion family is only due to the generosity of our donors. Without them, nothing happens.

After more thought though, maybe our most fun meeting is yet to come. At the Department convention, we will be presenting grant checks to several of the organizations that made requests this year. Who they will be determined at the May annual meeting. Hearing about their projects is always great fun. We won't present all the checks that day. Our Directors will also hand deliver checks and quite often get the chance to meet those that the money really helps.

So which is it that is the most fun, recognizing donors, choosing grant recipients or presenting checks to those grant recipients. I can't decide or maybe I just don't want to. I will enjoy all those meetings. If you are a donor, join us in the enjoyment. If you are not yet a donor, now would be a great time to start. Just send your donation to headquarters and join in the fun.

**David Rehbein, President**



## 2024 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](http://www.ialegion.org/boysstate)

<b>1st District</b> None Scheduled	For the virtual orientation email <a href="mailto:eric@ialegion.org">eric@ialegion.org</a> for enrollment and instructions
<b>2nd District</b> May 5, 2024 (Saturday) 2:00 PM	<b>Dyersville American Legion Post #137</b> 6th St SE, Dyersville, IA 52040
April 28, 2024 (Sunday) 2:00 PM	<b>Marion American Legion Post #298</b> 625 31st St, Marion, IA 52302
April 21, 2024 (Sunday) 2:00 PM	<b>DeWitt American Legion Post #238</b> 704 9th Street DeWitt, IA 52742
<b>Point of Contact:</b>	Gerald Becker (563) 875-8656 <a href="mailto:jkbecker@yousq.net">jkbecker@yousq.net</a>
<b>3rd District</b> April 28, 2024 (Sunday) 3:00 PM	<b>Dike American Legion #471</b> 540 Main St Dike, IA 50624
May 5, 2024 (Sunday) 3:00 PM	709 S Oak St. Iowa Falls, IA 50126
<b>Point of Contact:</b>	Jim Zacharias (641) 640-7872 <a href="mailto:jjzacharias1946@gmail.com">jjzacharias1946@gmail.com</a>
<b>4th District</b> May 5, 2024 (Sunday) 2:00 PM	<b>West Union American Legion Post #15</b> 103 E Main Street West Union, IA 52175
<b>Point of Contact:</b>	Jake Blitzsch (319) 240-0592 <a href="mailto:jakpeg@msn.com">jakpeg@msn.com</a>
<b>5th District</b> May 5, 2024 (Sunday) 2:00 PM	<b>The Department HQ's</b> 720 Lyon Street Des Moines, IA 50309
<b>Point of Contact:</b>	Charlie Bowser (815) 768-7492 <a href="mailto:charliebowser@msn.com">charliebowser@msn.com</a>
<b>6th District</b> May 5, 2024	For the virtual orientation email <a href="mailto:eric@ialegion.org">eric@ialegion.org</a> for enrollment and instructions
<b>Point of Contact:</b>	Ron Foster (515) 262-1763 <a href="mailto:rrdrftrf@prodigy.net">rrdrftrf@prodigy.net</a>
<b>8th District</b> May 1, 2024 (Wednesday) 7:00 PM	<b>Dedham American Legion Post #20</b> 301 Main St. Dedham, IA 51440
May 6, 2024 (Monday) 7:00 PM	<b>Forest City American Legion Post #121</b> 113 S Clark St., Forest City, IA 50436
<b>Point of Contact:</b>	Gary L. Haverman (712) 830-6081 <a href="mailto:Gary.haverman@gmail.com">Gary.haverman@gmail.com</a>
<b>9th District</b> April 28, 2024 (Sunday) 2:00 PM	<b>Spencer American Legion Post #1</b> Hwy 71 North Spencer Spencer, IA 51301
May 5, 2024 (Sunday) 2:00 PM	<b>Le Mars American Legion Post #241</b> 110 Plymouth St W, Le Mars, IA 51031
<b>Point of Contact:</b>	Michael A. Baartman (712) 363-0843 <a href="mailto:mbaart1015@hotmail.com">mbaart1015@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Virtual orientation</b> <b>May 2, 2024 (Sunday)</b>	For the virtual orientation email <a href="mailto:eric@ialegion.org">eric@ialegion.org</a> for enrollment and instructions

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 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 their parent(s) is/are unable to attend any of the Orientations, either in their district or not, they may access the materials online.

## DEPARTMENT LEADERSHIP SCHOOL May 31-June 2, 2024

The Department Leadership School will be held May 31-June 2, 2024, at the Holiday Inn Mercy Campus in Des Moines. The school will run on Friday from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.; Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; and Sunday from 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

The Department will cover the cost of six (6) attendees per District, one of which should be the incoming District Commander. This includes room (based on double occupancy), course materials, breakfast and lunch on Saturday and breakfast on Sunday. Department will not reimburse attendees for mileage or per diem. District authorized attendees should register online at <https://www.ialegion.org/leadershipschool>.

Endorsed candidates for Department and National offices are also invited to attend at Department expense. Candidates are in addition to the six allocated for each District. Candidates may register online at <https://www.ialegion.org/leadershipschool>.

Additional attendees from each District are allowed but will be required to pay for lodging. The Department will assist those attending at own expense with finding roommates to help reduce cost of attendance. Additional attendees may register online at <https://www.ialegion.org/leadershipschool>.

Any attendee requesting his/her own room will be required to pay entire room charge of \$111.00 + tax.

Newly elected 2024-2025 District Commanders must submit the List of Authorized Attendees for your District before May 10, 2024. Individual registrations are due no later than May 15, 2024.

## Educator of the Year [www.ialegion.org/educator](http://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](http://www.ialegion.org) or by request from the Department office.

Nominations must be received by April 1, 2024.

## National Affairs Committee Report for the State of Iowa on Feb. 10, 2024, at Mid-Winter in Des Moines

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 2024, 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 7 Law Enforcement Officer to choose from.

This year's Firefighter of the year is Jeff Moore from Camanche, IA. 2nd District. The post submitting him was June Van Meter Post 190. Clinton, IA

This year's Law Enforcement Officer is Luke Fleener from Duncombe, IA. 8th District. The post submitting him was FT Dodge Post 130 of FT Dodge, 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 into us.

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

**POST & SQUADRON EVERLASTING**  
11/01/2023 – 1/31/2024

**MARSHALLTOWN #46**  
William C Shuler  
Ed Savage  
Paul L Swartz

**WATERLOO #138**  
Kyle Schuler  
James L Glass  
Thomas L Mount  
Joseph F Sweeney  
Curtis R Gilbertson  
Joseph P Philip

**STRAWBERRY PT #218**  
Donald R Clevenger

**BOYDEN #272**  
Larry Sietstra

**DYSART #335**  
Kim H Klink

**NEW SHARON #446**  
Donald D Boyd

**BONAPARTE #563**  
William H Wenke

**RYAN #692**  
Robert R Garner  
Leland Reiss  
Leo H Wegmann

**SPENCER #1**  
James Hanthorne

**NEVADA #48**  
Lynn D Harris

**CLEAR LAKE #222**  
Robert S Halford  
Robert D Christensen

**REMSEN #220**  
J S Davis

**BELLEVUE #273**  
Larry P Ambrosy  
Gerald A Fuegen  
Wayne A Jackson  
Harold Poggenpohl  
Neil F Deppe  
Kenneth J Kilburg

**FAYETTE #339**  
Milford Stearns

**GALVA #454**  
Arlliss Friedrich  
Roscoe E Graybill

**GREELEY #566**  
Ronald Palmersheim  
George W Penn Jr  
Alvin L Tibbott

**ARCADIA #694**  
Allan L Dentlinger

**COUNCIL BLUFFS #2**  
Donald D Powell  
Marilyn K Crombie  
Robert D Hansen  
Paul R Rathman  
Jerome P Cook  
Dennis R Coffman

**BURLINGTON #52**  
Kenneth Schnedler

**STUART #146**  
William J Cowles

**SUMMER #223**  
Merlin Borcherding

**DES MOINES #274**  
Donald J Reeves

**JESUP #342**  
James Trebon

**LONE TREE #457**  
Glenn R Potter  
William R Schlappkohl

**EMERSON #575**  
William Pavkov

**SIoux CITY #697**  
Milo E Bengford

**OTTUMWA #3**  
William W Steele  
James R Wagner

**BOXHOLM #53**  
B J Denton

**VAN HORNE #148**  
Donald G Albertsen

**DUNLAP #224**  
Jeff Greenwood

**OSAGE #278**  
Edward Boehmer Jr  
Merrill F Johnson  
Ronald E Smith  
Vincent P Weber  
John D Stricker

**LAMONT #346**  
Peter J Houska

**CALAMIOUS #466**  
Dean St John  
Robert Jacobi

**GRIMES #577**  
Roger D Crannell

**ALVORD #704**  
Merle Koedam  
Robert Sullivan  
Vernon G Koedam

**DUBUQUE #6**  
Mike Ansel  
William M Fritz  
Stephen J Simon  
Ralph B Rutan  
Kenneth M Kurtz  
Jerry L Nameth  
Rudy Bellman

**VINTON #57**  
Gilbert L Hansen Jr  
Duane Mangold

**GILMAN #149**  
Dorothy J Davis

**AVOCA #227**  
Leta A Wingert  
Leo Bargaquast

**GRUNDY CENTER #349**  
Harold J Sealman

**MELVIN #470**  
Robert J Roede

**GRAVITY #578**  
Russel D Johnson

**DEFIANCE #707**  
Donald P Miller  
Donald Dotzler  
Lawrence R Groen

**CARROLL #7**  
Nicholas J Topf  
Lyle Schleisman  
Lloyd J Drees  
Lloyd Kline  
Henry B Beyerink

**STORY CITY #59**  
Jerry L Erickson

**HARLAN #150**  
David R Pierce

**WILLIAMSBURG #228**  
Joe Menary

**NEW VIRGINIA #281**  
Galen Morris

**ELGIN #352**  
Robert P Zurbriggen

**OXFORD JCT #473**  
Tom Shannon

**COLESBURG #582**  
Ronald E Willie

**GILBERTVILLE #714**  
Ronald L Frost  
Ronald N Youngblut  
Earl W Steimel  
G J Holbach  
Kevin Schares

**BLAIRSTOWN #170**  
Marvin F Dreuter  
Gordon Wagner  
James R Northup  
Robert Stark

**SIoux CITY #64**  
Larry D Kunze

**NASHUA #153**  
Howard A Campbell

**CHEROKEE #230**  
Norman Rupp  
Gerald D Korleski

**AUBURN #284**  
Arnold Blessington

**DIXON #353**  
Herbert Meyer  
Dan W Paulsen  
William D Young

**DONNELSON #474**  
Donald E Scott  
Lawrence P Strayer

**WILTON #584**  
Gordon L Arnold

**ST MARYS #716**  
Tom D Sheldahl  
John F Lewis  
Norman D Townsend  
Wesley D Smidt  
Rick Goodman

**DEWITT #238**  
Lawrence C McCormick

**OSCEOLA #69**  
Francis M Carns

**MITCHELLVILLE #155**  
Paul Vanhelten

**CAMBRIDGE #233**  
Bruce A Halverson  
Homer F Kalsem

**PARKERSBURG #285**  
Harold R Bergman  
Paul Haan  
Galen W Wiegmann  
Bernard G Venenga  
Ronald D Nevenhoven  
Robert L Jensen  
Wayne A Rossman

**COGGON #362**  
Pat Kratzer

**GARRISON #475**  
Wayne Merchant

**PRESTON #602**  
David S Labarr  
Walter C Empen

**DOON #476**  
Rodney Postma

**CLERMONT #375**  
Earl L Lehmann

**MAQUOKETA #75**  
Donald L Heath  
Robert J Mottet

**HAMBURG #156**  
Fredric M Ashler

**NORWAY #234**  
Mineard F Smith

**COGNON #362**  
Pat Kratzer

**MONROE #363**  
Richard A Simpson

**DAVENPORT #482**  
Bennie Sewell

**LOVILLA #613**  
Elmer J Keeton Jr

**LAWTON #718**  
Walter Reinholdt

**WALKER #376**  
Fred L Lutz

**BLOOMFIELD #78**  
Charles Carter

**DELHI #160**  
Charles F Flint

**LAKE MILLS #235**  
Harold Hurley  
Larry Voldahl  
Leroy W Brackey

**CLARENCE #286**  
Lavern Schwien

**PANORA #372**  
Dean Whitehead

**NORTH ENGLISH #488**  
Barry M Blaylock

**GRAFTON #616**  
Bruce J Biederman

**TREYNOR #725**  
George E Allen

**WALKER #376**  
Fred L Lutz

**CORRECTIONVILLE #79**  
Duane L Twite

**KNOXVILLE #168**  
Derald J Swisher  
Fred Goodwin

**CEDAR FALLS #237**  
Orvin A Peterson

**HARTLEY #288**  
Robert L Jensen  
Wayne A Rossman

**CLERMONT #375**  
Earl L Lehmann

**OAKVILLE #489**  
Edwin Bayne

**BAXTER #493**  
Larry D Schmidt

**IOWA #729**  
Everett S Minard  
Donald M Eldridge  
Robert Alexander  
Melvin R Randolph  
Leonard C Beaver  
Robert A Busse  
Robert E Jewell  
Donald D Steffa Sr  
Norman G Rozendaal  
Paul E Muehring  
Duane E Phifer

**WALKER #376**  
Fred L Lutz

**FORT MADISON #82**  
Jesse Burgher

**MONTEZUMA #169**  
Michael L Arendt

**DEWITT #238**  
Lawrence C McCormick

**BROOKLYN #294**  
Don Huedepohl

**DES MOINES #374**  
Keith E Brooke

**BARNES CITY #507**  
William Cooper  
David L Henry

**LAUREL #635**  
James L Brant

**OSKALOOSA #34**  
Marvin A Feist  
Pat E Burke

**WALKER #376**  
Fred L Lutz

**SALEM #94**  
Paul Moeller

**CHARLES CITY #174**  
Dennis C Shollenbarger  
Ronald J Hoffman

**LENOX #250**  
Marvin L Reed  
Ronald Piercy  
Stephen E Sweeney  
Eldon G Bose  
Paul T Lynam

**MARQUETTE #305**  
Orville A Knapp Sr

**ANTHON #389**  
Wilbur E Todd  
Vincent Kvidera  
Stephen Diamond

**GRISWOLD #508**  
Royal W Bierbaum  
Charles W Smith  
Jerald L Putnam  
Ivan F Lynch  
Gary Weideman  
Larry D Winchel  
Kenneth L Peterson

**WINFIELD #643**  
Michael E Jennings

**OSKALOOSA #34**  
Marvin A Feist  
Pat E Burke

**WALKER #376**  
Fred L Lutz

**ELKADER #106**  
Jody J Cook

**WAVERLY #176**  
Kenneth R Heerts  
Charles E Corns

**RICEVILLE #244**  
David H Clayton  
Melvin G Wyatt  
Rory D Anderlik

**HUMESTON #306**  
T R Henderson

**MOVILLE #303**  
Howard M Logan

**MENLO #511**  
Daniel E Abbott

**SCHLESWIG #645**  
Larry Clausen

**OSKALOOSA #34**  
Marvin A Feist  
Pat E Burke

**WALKER #376**  
Fred L Lutz

**PLEASANTVILLE #108**  
Richard R Gordon  
Larry D Raney

**SEYMOUR #180**  
Miles A Snider

**FONTANELLE #247**  
Harold Scholl

**HOPKINTON #311**  
Leroy J Helle  
Ronan L Welter

**WALNUT #422**  
Joseph G Sampson  
Kenneth Blum  
Ronald Paasch

**EDGEWOOD #512**  
Thomas W Burgin

**DENVER #653**  
Kenneth D McMains  
Will C Thies

**OSKALOOSA #34**  
Marvin A Feist  
Pat E Burke

**WALKER #376**  
Fred L Lutz

**NEWTON #111**  
Kenneth W Kepple  
Donald L Padget  
Delbert R Bayles

**WINTerset #184**  
Norman Rodgers  
Terry Waddingham

**ROYAL #248**  
David Yungbluth

**SANBORN #318**  
Marvin Brandt  
Marion D Jaycox

**WALNUT #422**  
Joseph G Sampson  
Kenneth Blum  
Ronald Paasch

**WEST BRANCH #514**  
Mildred Mather

**FARLEY #656**  
Ronald L Vorwald  
John Taylor

**OSKALOOSA #34**  
Marvin A Feist  
Pat E Burke

**WALKER #376**  
Fred L Lutz

**MUSCATINE #27**  
Michael J Riggan  
Harold G Todd  
William A Phillips  
Marvin L Lincoln  
Richard L Koll  
Chestor Tisor

**AKRON #186**  
Edward F Beeck

**HAWARDEN #254**  
Charles L Marienau  
Dennis G Bultman  
Robert E Oldenkamp

**BRITT #315**  
Robert F Perkins  
Jeremiah H Schmidt

**WALNUT #422**  
Joseph G Sampson  
Kenneth Blum  
Ronald Paasch

**CASCADE #528**  
Richard W Molony  
Thomas W McLees  
Neil R Gavin

**SMITHLAND #666**  
David Barngrover Sr

**OSKALOOSA #34**  
Marvin A Feist  
Pat E Burke

**WALKER #376**  
Fred L Lutz

**FOREST CITY #121**  
Clarence Riekema  
Dennis P Zehren  
Dean Haugen

**WAUCOMA #189**  
Gregory Kuennen

**GARNER #256**  
Marvin Schoneman

**WHITTEMORE #425**  
Robert Fuerstenau

**WALNUT #422**  
Joseph G Sampson  
Kenneth Blum  
Ronald Paasch

**DONAHUE #532**  
Arthur M Vanhoosier

**WEST POINT #668**  
Delmar C Holtz

**OSKALOOSA #34**  
Marvin A Feist  
Pat E Burke

**WALKER #376**  
Fred L Lutz

**STATE CENTER #122**  
Richard G Brewer  
Harold Davis

**WEBSTER CITY #191**  
Daniel J Brown  
Arden L Schlitter  
Galord L Paine

**WYOMING #259**  
Martin Haker

**SANBORN #318**  
Marvin Brandt  
Marion D Jaycox

**WALNUT #422**  
Joseph G Sampson  
Kenneth Blum  
Ronald Paasch

**ELLSTON #541**  
Edward A Tomas

**SWISHER #671**  
John L Hromidko  
Richard Frondle  
Harry Hoffon

**OSKALOOSA #34**  
Marvin A Feist  
Pat E Burke

**WALKER #376**  
Fred L Lutz

**MERRILL #125**  
William R Kelly  
Patrick R Schooley  
David Kramer

**SIoux CENTER #199**  
John Koerselman

**REDFIELD #261**  
Leonard L Godwin

**ELK HORN #322**  
Roland E Hansen

**WALNUT #422**  
Joseph G Sampson  
Kenneth Blum  
Ronald Paasch

**QUASQUETON #434**  
Norman R Miller  
Woodrow J Wilson

**FT ATKINSON #672**  
Myles C Kupka

**OSKALOOSA #34**  
Marvin A Feist  
Pat E Burke

**WALKER #376**  
Fred L Lutz

**OSKALOOSA #34**  
Martin G Long  
Donald G Veldhuizen

**MANSON #204**  
Ronald B Sturgis

**MILO #263**  
David M Hunter

**DAYTON #323**  
Daryl Haub

**WALNUT #422**  
Joseph G Sampson  
Kenneth Blum  
Ronald Paasch

**AURORA #435**  
Harold D Yeoman

**CARSON #556**  
Larry Pilling

**OSKALOOSA #34**  
Marvin A Feist  
Pat E Burke

**WALKER #376**  
Fred L Lutz

**GLADBROCK #127**  
Marvin Reese  
Ray Landt

**LAPORTE CITY #207**  
Harold R Hild  
Paul A Brown  
Kathy Davis

**MCGREGOR #267**  
Myron E Abildtrup  
Thomas L Franz  
David I Scott

**OCHEYEDAN #326**  
Harold J Benson

**WALNUT #422**  
Joseph G Sampson  
Kenneth Blum  
Ronald Paasch

**SILVER CITY #439**  
Robert A Howie  
Benedict M Natrass  
Ronnie P Bendt  
Michael L Miller  
Carl Winslow  
Robert W Rager  
Eric D Maxwell  
Tilda M Wambsgans

**LEDYARD #675**  
Maurice R  
Kramersmeier

**OSKALOOSA #34**  
Marvin A Feist  
Pat E Burke

**WALKER #376**  
Fred L Lutz

**FT. DODGE #130**  
John W Christians  
Harold Stewart

**WELLSBURG #213**  
Dean A Huisman  
Warren Lindaman

**GREENE #268**  
Richard W Vickers  
Richard Wihlm  
Margaret L Shultz

**NEOLA #330**  
Berand J Denning  
Samuel F Koob

**WALNUT #422**  
Joseph G Sampson  
Kenneth Blum  
Ronald Paasch



## Americanism

School is in full swing (pending snow days) various American Legion Programs are now behind The Post's who participated in various programs or contest. Firefighter and Law Enforcement nominations are past. The deadlines for Fifth Grade Essay's, along with all Oratorical Contests are history as far as the contests, however new history was made with each new participant/contestant and winners at all levels of contests. Mother nature always presents a challenge, however all working together makes it happen. Congratulations to all contestants and posts who made these programs successful. Once again, The American Legion Posts SHINE within their communities. Thanks to The District Americanism Chairmen who worked with the posts, when many work together all programs become great experiences for all who work closely with each participant. Midwinter is past with much information being presented to newcomers and refreshed for those who are there each time, who become stagnant to all the knowledge to the programs, sometimes missing a new idea to a particular program. (let's not be complacent in what we think we know). As we look ahead towards the Department Convention, we still have programs to start and complete. Those being Educator of the year by April 1, American Legion Bowling tournaments, Baseball, Boys State, Junior Shooting and Scouts, let's get these programs rolling!!! Hopefully most of these programs are in action, and if not, they soon will be. (A thought) The task ahead of us is never as powerful as the one behind us.

**James B. Kessler**

**Past Department of Iowa Commander  
Department Americanism Chairman  
The American Legion**

## Baseball

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

The American Legion Baseball season will soon be off to its start. Area Tournaments will be played April 20-21 and April 27-28. Locations will be determined soon. The Department Finals is tentatively scheduled to be played on Sunday, May 5th. The location is to be finalized soon. All details will be made available online at [www.ialegion.org/baseball](http://www.ialegion.org/baseball) as soon as they are finalized.

2024 Player Indemnification Forms (Form 2) for state play are due to Department Headquarters no later than April 1, 2024. Team rosters are due no later than April 1, 2024, 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.

## Congratulations Riders

The Department Mid Winter Conference according to the sign in sheets, brought a room set for 80 to near capacity. All together 70 of you signed in. I want to say thank you to all of you for coming and for taking the time to attend the conference. I sincerely hope that each of you had a chance to take something back with you whether it was information, or new or renewed connections. From Thursday afternoon, until the closing prayer on Sunday I don't think there was a single time where I looked around and did not see a Legion Rider. That was certainly impressive and an attention getter.

We each attended workshops, District and Department meetings, and the caucuses. I can leave out those inevitable "side meetings". We joke that those meetings are where the real business happens, but it's not entirely wrong. Thank you to Connie for taking the notes, to Grumpy for filling in the open Department Vice Chair position, and for Mike for making sure the Chaplain duties were covered. Speaking of Chaplains, I neglected to recognize our Department Chaplain Whitney Smith McIntosh who was sitting in the front row. Whitney and another attendee, State Charter Member Carl Allender have chartered the latest of 4 new Chapters for Iowa at the Balwin Patterson Post #274 in Des Moines. Also with us were Directors Don Koob of Dows, Barrin Hanson of Goldfield, as well as Vice Director Jeff Knutson from the new post in Pella. Each of you brought other members in and to conference. That is how we continue to grow.

I'd like some feedback before convention about what you would like to see workshops on? What interests you? I know the Be The One training workshop was well attended, as was the Riders workshop. I want to take whatever opportunity I can to bring information of interest to the group, and to the Legion. Seeing a full house for the Riders workshop was great, and I feel it will be even better next year.

Sincerely, thank you all for attending, and we'll see you at your District Conferences and again in July for Department Convention.

**Cliff Barker, Department Riders Chair**

## Foundation Grants

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

## Wreaths Across America-2023

### The American Legion Blue Grass, Iowa, Post 711

On December 16, 2023, The American Legion Blue Grass, Iowa - Post 711, was honored to host a NaEonal Day of Tribute – Wreaths Across America (WAA). An experience, by many that will never be forgoPen where legion members and the community joined together to remember the fallen, to honor those who serve, and to teach the next generaEon the value of freedom by joining over 2 million volunteers naEonwide in placing wreaths on veterans' headstones.

Since 2012, it has been a tradiEon of Post 711 to place approximately 20-30 sponsored wreaths on the Rock Island Arsenal NaEonal Cemetery graves and render a salute. About 3 years ago, Al McDonnell (WAA Post 711 Coordinator) received a request for a grave specific wreath order from a Florida woman who wanted a wreath placed on her grandfather's grave who was buried in the Confederate Cemetery located on the Rock Island Arsenal Island. Al McDonnell called her and told her the post would be honored to do this for her. A[er placing the wreath Al took a picture of the grave with the wreath and sent it to her. She was elated and began sharing the picture with family & friends and for the next several years 4 wreaths were laid. In 2023, it expanded to ten wreaths. Currently, there are 1,952 Confederate Soldiers buried at the Confederate Cemetery out of 1,960 that died while imprisoned. Eight prisoners' remains were dug up and returned to their families in the South a[er the war. Two prisoners were shot while trying to escape. The other deaths were caused by diseases that ran rampant i.e. by Dysentery, Smallpox, and Pneumonia.

The prison was built in the summer of 1863 and prisoners began to arrive in December of that same year which was one of the coldest winters on record. It was built to hold 10,000 and was ill prepared for the surge of over 12,000 prisoners who came from the South where the weather is much warmer. As Al, conEued to talk to the granddaughter of a Confederate Soldier, she said her granddad wrote and told how the local community and churches donated blankets, clothes, and food to assist with the prisoners' daily needs.

These men deserve to be honored as well as any other veteran out of respect to their families. Even though they were defeated, they were sEIl Americans and buried 1,000 miles from their home and families.

Over Eme, just like the Florida woman's story, it became apparent to Post 711 that others purchasing wreaths also wanted them to be placed on a specific family member's grave and may not have the means to do so since if they no longer live in the area or are not able to physically lay the wreath due to their age or health. Thus, the post began to offer Grave-Specific-Placements for others. As an example, Post 711 was Chartered in 1949 and currently has only one chartered member le[ so this Grave-Specific-Placement service is gratefully offered year a[er year and much appreciated.

In 2022, with a strong belief in the mission statement of WAA to Remember, Honor and Teach, Post 711 started holding a Wreaths Across America ceremony at 11:00 am at the post hall for the community followed by refreshments before going to the Blue Grass Iowa Cemetery to lay sponsored wreaths where approximately 200 veterans have been laid to rest, daEng back to the War of 1812, Civil War, WWII, Korea, and Vietnam. In 2023, Post 711 had sponsors for approximately 200 wreaths to honor the fallen in various cemeteries with hopes of increasing sponsorship in 2024.

As the WAA tradiEon conEues to grow at Post 711, so has the expansion of honoring our veterans. On Dec 16, 2023, Post 711 Chaplain (Kirk Graham) rendered a salute by tolling the bell at the Blue Grass Cemetery

and then travelled 40 miles to place a grave-specific wreath in West Liberty, Iowa on a headstone of a helicopter pilot (Bruce Smith) who was shot down in Iraq (2003), twenty years ago.





### New for 2024

- Moving from truck unit to custom container with 40' x 40' activation footprint
- INDYCAR Driver Autograph session will be hosted in our mobile display co-branded with INDYCAR and will include a "fast pass" lane for active-duty and veterans
- Added semi-private areas for Veteran Service Officers to better serve the veterans on-site needing assistance with their benefits
- Thank You gift to every active-duty and veteran with bonus premium for our members; still ability to join onsite via National or with attending Department.
- Lead generation will include both veteran AND general fan interacting with our brand.

**We are looking for 12 volunteers to help with the mobile marketing booth.**  
*If you are interested email [marketing@ialegion.org](mailto:marketing@ialegion.org)*

**Race Weekend Concerts**  
**Saturday July 13**  
**Pre-Race Luke Combs**  
**and Eric Church Post-Race.**  
**Sunday July 14 Post-Race**  
**Kelsea Ballerini and Post Malone.**

*There will be some tickets for the race available and if your interested email [marketing@ialegion.org](mailto:marketing@ialegion.org) so we can get your name on the list.*

We look forward to being able to meet with several thousand people and explain to them the great work we do for veterans and there families.

This is a huge opportunity for the American Legion of Iowa to show our members and future members the work we do for them.

**The booth will operate**  
**Friday July 11, 12, and 13.**



## MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND 05.25.24

• Gray's Lake Park • Des Moines •

### REGISTER

• [www.starsstripesspirit.com](http://www.starsstripesspirit.com) •



**Department Post Narrative History Book**  
**Highland Park, Post #374**  
**Des Moines, IA**  
**Shawn Gebhardt, Historian**



**American Legion Writers**



### Walk for Veterans

The American Legion of Iowa  
 Walk for Veterans at the Iowa State Fair  
**Monday, August 12, 2024**  
**Veterans Day at the Iowa State Fair**  
**Veterans' Parade**  
**Staging time: 7:00 – 10:30 am**  
**Parade: 11:00 am**

Department Commander Stanley Elliott will lead American Legion family members and friends in the Walk for Veterans.

**Download the registration form at [www.ialegion.org/wfv](http://www.ialegion.org/wfv)**  
**You can also pick up a registration form at Headquarters**

- All participants must register with The American Legion of Iowa before July 25, 2024.
- Registration is free.
- All walk participants must wear The American Legion Walk for Veterans shirt. We have a limited supply available. Please contact headquarters for size options at (515)282-5068.
- All parade participants will receive free entry into the Iowa State Fair AFTER the parade.
- Parking is not included.
- Participants must report to the staging area before 10:30 am.



\$35 for Adults | \$25 for U18s  
 \$10 early discount ends 4.25.24  
 0800 • Registration Begins  
 0900 • Walk / Run Start  
 1000 • Post Event Ceremonies

5K Walk/Run & 1K Walk Option  
 Color Rush Run for Kids and the Young at Heart  
 Event T-Shirt  
 Food and Beverages

**#starsstripesspirit5k**

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