

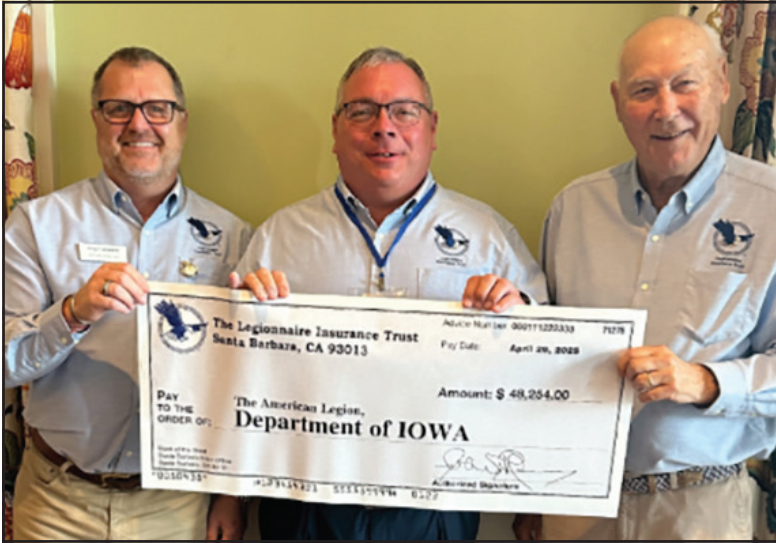


THE AMERICAN LEGION  
DEPARTMENT OF IOWA

# IOWA LEGIONNAIRE & AUXILIARY COMMUNIQUE

An Official Publication of The American Legion, Department of Iowa: June 2025

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



**Andrew Downen, Senior Vice President & CFO, AGIA;  
John Derner, Department Adjutant;  
Braxton Bridgers, Chairman of the Board, LIT**

## Department of Iowa Receives \$48,254 from LIT

The Legionnaire Insurance Trust (LIT) was founded with the purpose to provide Legionnaires with the most advanced and least expensive form of insurance to protect themselves and their families while providing American Legion Departments with a reliable source of revenue.

Additionally, the LIT provides a no cost LegionCare Accidental Death coverage to all adult Legion, Auxiliary, and SAL members of the Department of Iowa who enroll.

### Facts about the Legionnaire Insurance Trust:

- Serving Legionnaires since 1966
- 50 participating American Legion Departments
- Over 1,500,000 participating Legionnaires
- Over \$1 billion paid in claims to Legionnaires
- Over \$100,000,000 in allocations paid to the American Legion Departments

This year, the Department of Iowa received \$48,254 in allocations. Since Iowa joined the LIT in 1992, the Department of Iowa has received a grand total of \$1,980,703.

The LIT, as the only endorsed provider of the Department's voluntary purchase programs, has made it possible for thousands of Legion families to collect millions of dollars in benefits by enrolling in one or more of the products and/or services offered.

### LIT Products and Services

- Toll-free customer service & claims telephone numbers
- Expert customer service & claims processing
- Coverage available for Legionnaire, spouse, and dependent children
- Available to adult American Legion Auxiliary
- Available to adult Sons of The American Legion

### Department Sponsored Programs

- Hospital HELP Plan — Provides benefits for hospital stays including intensive care, cardiac care, care for cancer, rehabilitative facilities, and VA hospitals.
- Cancer Care — Provides important protection and a daily benefit if you are hospitalized due to cancer.

- Accidental Death — Helps provide financial protection for you and your family. Up to \$5,000.00
- LegionCare – Accidental Death coverage at no cost to Legionnaires is available: (activation required). You can also purchase additional Accident coverage up to \$100,000.00.
- On-The-Move Travel Accident — Provides up to \$200,000.00 coverage when fatally injured in a covered accident while traveling, plus \$500.00 per day if a covered accident lands you in the hospital.
- ID Resolve — Provides 24-hour identity theft resolution that helps protect your money, your time, and your financial reputation.
- Emergency Assistance Plus — Provides you with 24/7 emergency medical and travel assistance services should something happen to you or your family while traveling away from home.
- Medicare Supplement Insurance — Supplements your Medicare Coverage at group rates.
- Health & Dental Insurance — Request a quote on various Health & Dental Insurance Plans designed with you in mind.
- Long-Term Care — Can help provide home health care, supervised adult care, and more.
- Lifeline Medical Alert Service — Provides fast access to help in the event of a fall or medical emergency so you can live confidently and independently.
- DeviceGuard — A simple, comprehensive, and affordable way to protect your devices—from smartphones to laptops to digital doorbells. Flexible plans and bundles ensure that you only pay for the protection you need.
- Individual Vision Plan – Provides you with access to vision care benefits with affordable, full-service coverage you can purchase on your own.

**For more information on LIT products,  
visit [www.theLIT.com](http://www.theLIT.com) or call 800-235-6943**



**The American Legion, Department of Iowa  
USA 250th Anniversary Pistol  
NM922483 Springfield 1911.45AP Garrison Engraving  
Model PX9420EM**

#29 of a certified maximum of 250 numbered.

**Only 500 tickets sold. Ticket price: \$20.00**

**Drawing will be held on July 20, 2025. Need not be present to win.  
Contact Department for ticket information.**

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

### Deadlines & Dates

**June 6**  
District Commander Orientation

**June 6-8**  
Leadership School – Des Moines

**June 14**  
Flag Day

**June 15**  
Consolidated Post Reports Due

**Legionnaire of the Year  
Nominations Due**

**National Convention  
Registration Due**

**Father's Day**

**June 19**  
Juneteenth Observed

**Department Offices Closed**

**June 20**  
Finance Meeting – Dept HQ

**June 22-27**  
Boys State – Camp Dodge

**July 4**  
Independence Day

**Department Offices Closed**

**July 18-20**  
Department Convention

**Airport Holiday Inn, Des Moines**

**July 21**  
Department Offices Closed

**July 24-22**  
JSSP Nat'l Tournament – Hillsdale College, MI

**July 21 – 27**  
Boys Nation – Washington, DC

**August 15**  
Fall Legionnaire Articles due

**August 22 – 28**  
National Convention – Tampa, FL

**Sep 1**  
History Books Due to Dept

**Sep 2**  
Labor Day

**Department Offices Closed**

**Sep 15**  
Post Officer Forms Due to Dept.

**Sep 16**  
American Legion Day

**Sep 26-28**  
Americanism Conference





**The American Legion, Department of Iowa**

Mailing: 720 Lyon St., Des Moines, IA 50309  
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**Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Iowa**

Website: [www.ialegion.org/sal](http://www.ialegion.org/sal)  
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**The Iowa Legionnaire and Communiqué**

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720 Lyon St., Des Moines, Iowa 50309



**Department Commander**  
Brian D. Ring Sr.

Hello Iowa Legion Family  
Judy and I hope You and your family  
are doing well and Life has been  
good to you.

**MEMBERSHIP**

Membership in the American Legion of Iowa offers veterans and their families a unique opportunity to connect with a community dedicated to service, patriotism, and support. Our organization provides a platform for advocacy, camaraderie, and continued service. Members gain access to a wide network of support services, including assistance with VA benefits, scholarships, youth programs, and community outreach initiatives. Individuals not only honor their own service but also contribute to strengthening veterans' voices across Iowa and preserving the legacy of those who served before them.

Work actively on building and strengthening membership in your post. Welcome new members and help them feel included by involving them in post activities and responsibilities. Take time to mentor potential future leaders—especially your eventual replacement—to ensure your post not only grows but thrives into the future.

**MEMORIAL DAY**

Over Memorial Day weekend, our post came together to honor and remember those who gave their lives in service to our country. Many of you served as guest speakers at local ceremonies, sharing powerful words and personal reflections that resonated deeply with the community. We placed flags at veterans' graves, participated in the town's Memorial Day parade, and held a respectful remembrance service featuring a rifle salute and the playing of Taps. Your dedication and involvement made each event more meaningful and helped ensure that the sacrifices of our fallen heroes were properly honored. Thank You.

**CONSOLIDATED POST REPORT**

I Hope that every Post in Iowa submitted your Consolidated Post Report (CPR). It is essential—not just as a record of your post's activities, but as a powerful tool for the American Legion at both the Department and National levels. The information you provide helps demonstrate the impact our organization has in communities across the country. It supports our mission by guiding program funding, informing legislative efforts, and highlighting the value of our service. Your accuracy and timeliness in completing the CPR are crucial to telling our story and advancing the goals of the Legion.

Judy and I sincerely thank you for all the invitations to your events and gatherings. We truly enjoy hearing the history and stories about your post and the close-knit family you've built. Your dedication, service, and the time you invest to support veterans, mentor youth, and carry forward the mission of the American Legion Family do not go unnoticed. Thank you for everything you do—it's inspiring and deeply appreciated.



**Department Adjutant**  
John A. Derner

**Legislative Update – HF 1000**

The 2025 General Assembly adjourned  
Sine Die on Thursday, May 15th.

The House had our VSO matching grant program funding and the HF 1000 language in their Health and Human Services (HHS) budget, but the Senate did not.

The House passed the bill unanimously and had it in their budget, but the Senate was unwilling to move it this year.

This means the bill will still be alive next session and only must go through the Senate.

I would like to thank all of you who contacted your Representatives and Senators this year for getting us this far. But our work is not done. As Senators return to your communities, we encourage you to contact them to ask for their support in getting HF 1000 passed next year.

For contact information, visit <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/find>.

**Overview**

HF 1000 would provide funding in the form of matching grants to Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs) to expand the number of employees directly working claims for VA benefits in the Department Service Offices. The appropriation we are requesting is \$250,000 per year for a minimum of three years. We propose that the grants be administered by the Iowa Department of Veterans affairs.

For example, if salary and benefits to add an employee amount to \$80,000, the organization would be responsible for \$40,000 and the grant would provide \$40,000. The grant would not be for existing employees, but only for adding additional employees.

As veterans, we know the impact the Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs) have on Iowa's veterans. Last fiscal year, veterans and their families represented by VSOs in Iowa received \$713M in federal VA benefits. This is compensation for injuries and illnesses they suffer because of their military service.

These benefits are not a windfall for the veterans. It is compensation for the hardships they endure because of military service. They would eagerly trade that compensation for a return to health.

**The assistance we provide, in cooperation with the county veterans' service offices, comes at no cost to the veteran. Legislators are asked to not view this as an expense for the state of Iowa. Instead, view it as an investment in the services provided to Iowa veterans. The veterans in whom we are investing made a much bigger investment in the safety, security, and freedom we all enjoy.**

**The Role of Veterans Service Organizations, County Veterans Service Office and the VA**

The VA serves as the decision maker and has the responsibility of adjudicating claims. The role that the Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs) play is the preparation of claims and advocating on behalf of the veteran to the VA.

Claims in Iowa typically start with the county. The County Veterans Service Office provides the initial development of the claim, after which they either submit it directly to the VA or through one of the VSOs. The county offices also play a critical role in tracking the claim on behalf of the veteran and providing additional documentation and evidence when necessary.

Where the Veterans Service Offices (VSOs), such as The American Legion, the VFW, and the DAV, enter the picture is when that claim is submitted to the VA. One of the VSOs is typically designated by the veteran to have Power of





### Department Service Officer Shane Pankonen

#### Estate Planning

If you are a veteran in receipt of compensation or pension disability benefits from the Department of

Veterans Affairs (VA) you should plan for the welfare of those who are dependent upon you.

There are also some compensation and pension programs available to qualifying surviving dependents through the VA, though usually at significantly lower rates than the veteran's current

award amount. A spouse may be eligible for basic Dependent and Indemnity Compensation (DIC), if the veteran passes away due to a service-connected condition.

The VA pension benefits are solely income based. If the widow/widower does not qualify for VA assistance, hopefully she/he qualifies for Social Security. Unfortunately, there are many variables and everyone's check amount will differ. We have recently witnessed the effects that the lack of estate planning can have on a widow or widower.

What if my husband/spouse dies and I am not on, his or her bank account or home mortgage, car loans, and any other personal loans you may have together? If you have a life insurance policy, make sure this is up to

date as to whom should be the beneficiary.

If your husband or spouse passed away and you are not listed on his bank account, the account will likely go through probate unless it is a joint account or has a named beneficiary. Probate is a legal process where the court oversees the distribution of assets.

Being a veteran does not excuse a person from financial planning. There are numerous ways to plan for the future. If you are unsure of your own planning skills, please consult an estate professional. Your local service office can also provide information on possible VA benefit eligibility.

If you have any questions regarding this, please contact the Service Office at 515-323-7532 or the Department of Veterans Affairs at 1-800-827-1000



### National Executive Committeeman Dennis Soppe

Greeting Legionnaires of Iowa

Hopefully you will get this issue of the legionnaire before we have our conference in July.

You're ANEC and NEC have returned from the spring meetings held in Indianapolis on May 7th and 8th. We approved 18 resolutions over the course of two days. Numerous debates were held within the commissions and committees. If you as Legionnaires have a chance or opportunity to attend the spring or fall meetings, please do so as it is worthwhile.

Among the resolutions #1 had to deal with ensuring National Security and Strategic Access on the law

of the sea. Short version is that Americas National security is threatened by our absence from the United Nations convention on the law of the sea and leadership in the international seabed authority.

We also discussed the 250th anniversary of the Army Marines and Navy. We are going to work closely with the military installations, our schools, government offices, churches and media to build awareness and share personal accounts of our service in the different organizations. We need to show the world that we are proud of the branch of service that we were in and encourage veterans to submit their stories on why they joined.

A big topic of discussion was Be the One. We all need to promote this as we need to help veterans as we struggle with different mental issues. Buddy checks that we have here in Iowa go a long way in helping our fellow veterans to know that they are not alone.

We also learned of all the good work that the Veterans and Children's Foundation is doing. Go to national American Legion and click on veterans and children foundation and you too will see what is happening. Once there you will also see there are guides to welcoming new members recruiting new members and how to make them feel wanted in your post and their families.

Our state convention will be coming up in July. This is your chance to have a voice in how your department is run along with your post. Congress has the power to change the rules and make things better for our veterans. You have the power to have a say in how our department is run. But to have that say you need to be at the convention at least on Sunday so you can vote on resolutions and people who are running for office.

Thank You for allowing me to serve you legionaries of Iowa. Dennis



### Sons of The American Legion Detachment Commander Doug Honse

Well, here we are Spring of 2025 and a year that has been a roller coaster in more ways than one. Spring has been busy. I was able

to attend 7th, 3rd, 8th, and 4th district conferences. I have also presented Blue Grass and Quasqueton charters since Mid-Winter. As part of the Spring

conferences, I presented 2 charter application packets to Atlantic and Cresco. We have also had Hull, Mechanicsville, Granger, Ringsted, and Keystone who have asked for or received charter application packets. We are sitting strong as a Detachment; but we are not done yet. As of today May 10th, we are sitting at 92.76% of goal and 84.99% renewal leaving us 381 short of meeting the 100% goal. We can still do this. We still have some squadrons who still have membership packets at department. I would like to see these numbers improve. Please feel free to reach

out to me if you have any questions or need help with anything (712)-460-2330 or email sal.rv321@gmail.com. We are continuing to mandate that the following documents need to be into headquarters to receive your 2026 cards. Those documents are the Officers Report on the back side of the Officers Report is the Officers Eligibility verification, The Squadron Data Report, and the Consolidated Squadron Report. Whose legacy are you guarding?



### 1st District Commander Curtis Goudy

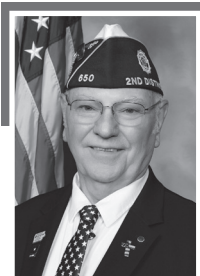
Greetings, my fellow Legionaries

The spring conference for the first district was held March 29th in Marengo at Post 76. Post 76

Commander and team were amazing hosts with amazing facility. A unanimous vote was cast to maintain all officers for another year.

Post 41 Keokuk Iowa is nearing completion of their road to honor project at the national cemetery. Bill Smith has set the date for the ribbon cutting to officially open the newly refurbished roadway for June 27 at 1100hrs. I would like all who are able to

attend Bill to be reached at 3193718360 for more details. I know it goes against our nature but get out and brag about what the American Legion is doing For God and County



### 2nd District Commander Richard Bries

Greetings

Second District Legion Family

As I write this article I'm realizing this will be my last one as your Second District Commander.

I thank everyone for your support the past two years as Commander. These last couple years went so fast, it's hard to think of where did the time go. The best part is everyone that I had the pleasure to meet and the ones I knew before became really close friends & mentors.

Thanks to all who attended the 2025 Spring

Conference, also a special thanks to Dyersville Post 137 for hosting. It's always great to have a large turnout at our conference's, we need you there to be able to conduct business. If we do not have a quorum, we are not able to vote on District business.

Congratulations Polly Graham for being elected as your next District Commander. Polly is from Post 711 Blue Grass, Ia. Polly has served the last years as 2nd District Adjutant and I thank her for the extremely awesome job she has done for our District. Polly will be the second female to be Commander of the Great 2nd District. The first female 2nd District Commander was Bettie

Andrews of Cedar Rapids, Ia. in 1983-1984. Bettie Andrews then went on to be Department Commander 1987-1988 and was the first female to

hold that position. After meeting Polly & learning of her extensive back ground in the military, this young Lady should not only become our next District Commander and hopefully go on to be Iowa's 2nd female Department Commander. At Spring Conference 4 post received Honor Ribbons, were given to Post381 Lost Nation, Post 622 Grand Mound, Post 650 Epworth & Post 677 Miles. Thanks to these Post for membership equal to or exceeding the final membership for the year ending. 1 Road Runner Plaque awarded Post622 Grand Mound for reaching 105% 30 days prior to Dept of Iowa Convention.

Please remember to send in your CPR's, they need to be in by June 15th. Let's make 100% turn in this year. For God & Country

BE THE ONE





### 3rd District Commander Del Shepard

As I reflect on the past year, I am reminded of some sage advice from a fellow District Commander. "Your first year is for learning what needs to be done, and your second year is for getting it right." Those words have stayed with me throughout this last year. There are new challenges that a Commander faces that a Vice-Commander may never know about. The American Legion Family is made up of a complex group of traditions, procedures, guidelines, and expectations for all members, and more so for those who serve in leadership positions. I want to thank all the officers of the Third District for their dedication and diligence to their duties over the past year. I look

forward to working with the team that will make up the next year's adventures.

With that being said, we all have challenges ahead. Membership is always at the forefront for all of us as we face declining numbers in many Posts in Iowa and the Nation. We are all responsible for maintaining membership at the Post, State, and National level. Our World War II Veterans are almost all gone. Their numbers were strong, and it was much easier to convince them to join after their service to our Country. I remember my Father being in the American Legion from the time he was discharged from the U.S. Army after seven years of service. He was proud to work with other Legion members in the community to provide services to families of our Veterans.

The dynamics of the family of Veterans today are much different than it was 80+ years ago. Mothers are often holding a career; the children are involved

in many activities and sports in their school. There are challenges for the family to add just one more thing to their calendars. Being a member of a local American Legion Post is many times one of the last things a Veteran wants to add to that calendar. We are not alone in this situation. Think of your local civic organizations and church who are experiencing declining interest from young families. It's a trend that many of us cannot relate to easily.

I would challenge each Post and their members to brainstorm ideas the come up with approaches to reach out to local Veterans and their families and find ways to involve them in your services and programs. You must find new avenues to meet their needs and interests. Just inviting them to join your Post isn't going to satisfy their needs.

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY



### 4th District Commander Cindy Yslas

As we've celebrated Memorial Day Season and use this opportunity to think about, honor, visit the graves of, and celebrate the lives of those great men and women who served as Veterans, lived with honor as a Veterans and perhaps even gave the ultimate sacrifice as Veterans, we would be remiss if we didn't think about what made them a Veteran in the first place.

While traveling around Iowa the past 2 years and attempting to stop in at many of the Posts within 4th District, I often hear a similar comment made from those working hard to build our American Legion membership. "So & So would join but he "barely" feels like a Veteran as he only served 2 years." Or "I would become a member but it was a lifetime ago

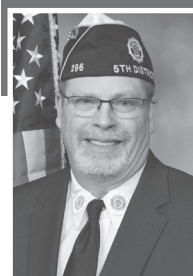
and I don't even think of myself as a Veteran since it was for such a short time."

But the reality is this. It doesn't matter if you served for 2 years or 22 years. You were one of the very few in this United States (and the numbers are getting smaller each year) that chose to raise your right hand, swore to defend the United States against ALL enemies (both foreign and domestic) and were willing to give your life in the defense of our great country. Again, not something just anyone could or would do.

Having attended many Veterans military funerals over the years, I've read the obituaries of so many incredible individuals who served for a mere 2-4 years some 50 years ago. They came home after serving, got married, started working somewhere and began raising families. Leaving those "military days" long behind them. The reality is though, that so many of these Veterans saw and did more in those 2-4 years

in Vietnam, Korea or even Germany than many of the rest of us (with 20+ years) could ever imagine. Many of them have carried these images and memories with them quietly for all these years, only to be discussed amongst the family one last time as they are laid to rest. When given the chance to visit the casket at each military funeral, I'm always honored to give them "one final salute" to say Thanks! Thanks for what they did, for what they saw and for what they survived in only a "short" 2-4 years!!

So the next time someone tells you, "I'm not much of a Veteran" or "I only served a couple years", remind them that they served! They did what most can not or will not do ... and the American Legion looks forward to looking out for them and their families in so many ways in the future, as our way of saying Thanks!! Thanks for becoming a member of the Largest Veterans Lobbying Organization and Thanks for being a Veteran.



### 5th District Commander Gary J. Quinlan

Hello 5th District, Department Convention is July 18th through the 20th It's at the Holiday Inn Des Moines-Airport/ConfCenter, an IHG Hotel. Hopefully many of you will be there. As I'm writing, this HF 1000 has yet to pass. Hopefully it will be by the time this is published. For updates, please check the department website.

5th District is currently sitting in 9th place at 89.04% as of 5/9/25. 5th district currently has 7 posts at 100% percent or higher please keep trying in memberships. If you know someone who hasn't updated their dues or a veteran who isn't a member, ask that person why they haven't renewed or why they aren't a member. The American Legion does so many great things at the community, state and national level. Make sure you are doing your Buddy Checks to check on your local veterans that might need a helping hand.

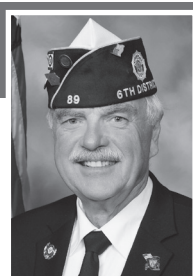
I attended the 1st, 2nd and 6th District Spring Conferences. It's a good perspective on how other

districts hold their conferences. Thanks for all warm greetings.

The National Convention is being held in Tampa Florida August 22-28.

In closing I've had a great time being 5th District Commander for the past 2 years. There have been challenges along the way but the good outweighed the bad. Thanks to everyone who help me along the way. I'm not going away. Just looking to expand my knowledge through this great organization The American Legion.

For God and Country



### 6th District Commander Don De Kock

I hope everyone is enjoying a wonderful spring, although the past few days have been surprisingly warm for early May. It's refreshing to see the corn and beans beginning to sprout, adding a touch of green to the fields.

The Spring Conferences have concluded, and hopefully, all leadership roles across all the districts have been successfully filled.

For those of us from Pella, the first weekend of May is synonymous with Tulip Time. True to tradition, Pella Post 89 had its float in all six parades, with several American Legion members proudly riding the float.

This year, the Pella Post continued its commitment to education by awarding two scholarships to

two exceptional young women. A requirement for receiving one of our scholarships is that the recipient must have a parent or grandparent who is an American Legion member.

One of this year's recipients is a student at Pella Christian High School and is the daughter of our Chaplain.

The other recipient attends Pella Community High School and has a grandfather who is a member of the Altoona Post. During the Senior Awards night at Pella High School, I invited the recipient's grandfather to join us on stage for the scholarship presentation. He graciously agreed, and once on stage, I introduced him to the audience and shared that he is a Vietnam Combat Veteran. The crowd responded with a standing ovation, a heartfelt welcome home and gratitude for his service.

Looking ahead, we are excited about the upcoming Department Convention and the Iowa State Fair. This

year, for the first time in several years, the Department of Iowa will have a booth in the Varied Industries Building at the fair. We need at least six volunteers each day to work at the booth. It's a wonderful opportunity to engage with visitors and share information about the American Legion. Your participation in working at least one shift would be greatly appreciated.

As my time of being the Sixth District Commander will be coming to an end during the Department Convention in July, I have to say I have been truly blessed during these two years. I have had the opportunity to meet and work with some great veterans at the Post, County, District, and Department Meetings. So, thank you to each of you.

As always, I simply need to say, keep the wind at your back, the salt spray in your face and never forget whose hand is on the tiller guiding your life.





### 7th District Commander Mitch Brahms

Greetings fellow Legionnaires. I would like to congratulate everyone who got elected to their district offices. Thank you to Whitney for inviting me to come up to the 6th district conference. I enjoy going to

other districts to see how they operate. I look forward to meeting everyone at Leadership school. It will be nice getting to know everyone and brainstorming ways to improve on our already great department.

These past few months I have enjoyed going to the Legion in Stanton, Griswold Corning and getting to meet all the members. I had the pleasure of helping Clark Jones of OURCQ Post 117 in Corning, Iowa. Clark was able to coordinate the state of Iowa

premiere of, "Brothers after war". A film produced by Jake Rademacher in connection with the Gary Sinese foundation. We had a fantastic turn out. The documentary series is very moving and speaks to the heart of all veterans.

I'm looking forward to the Memorial Day programs I will be attending and getting my own children more involved in them. I am excited for the summer conference and getting to see all of you then.



### 8th District Commander Tony Lile

Thank you to everyone who attended our 8th District Spring Conference in Livermore, Iowa. With over fifty attendees, this was the largest turnout we've seen at a District Conference in the past

six years—a true testament to the dedication and enthusiasm of our members.

During the conference, we heard from a County Veteran Service Officer who shared valuable insights on how their office can help connect potential members with the American Legion. We've also seen an increasing number of state-level members expressing interest in transferring to local Posts, which is a very encouraging sign for our grassroots strength.

As I've said before, the vitality of our Posts is essential

to the continued success of the American Legion. At the same time, we need committed Legionnaires to step up at the District level. The District's purpose is to ensure that every Post has the support and resources it needs to fulfill our shared mission: serving veterans and their families, fostering patriotism, and shaping the next generation through Americanism programs.

Looking ahead, we have several exciting opportunities to engage with our communities and fellow veterans:

- RAGBRAI will be coming through our District this summer, with overnight stops in Estherville and Forest City. This presents a great chance to raise awareness and potentially welcome new members to our Posts.

- A series of stock car races in Spencer, Algona, and Boone have traditionally included tributes to veterans. These events could also serve as excellent venues to share our mission and connect with prospective members.

- The Jefferson Bell Tower Festival and county fairs

across Iowa are additional opportunities to reach out to veterans and share how they can make an impact through the Legion.

- Lastly, the 8th District will be staffing a booth at the Iowa State Fair for one full day. District members who volunteer to work at the booth will have their fair entrance covered. If you're interested in participating, please let me know.

I understand this may sound like a recruitment pitch—but the reality is, we need engaged members now more than ever. As legislative decisions are made that impact veterans' welfare, our collective voice must be strong and well-represented.

Let us also keep in our thoughts and prayers the men and women from Iowa preparing for deployment. We wish them a safe and speedy return home.

Please feel free to contact me at any time. You can reach me by phone at 712-790-7929 or via email at [tlile@fmctc.com](mailto:tlile@fmctc.com).



### 9th District Adjutant Chris H. Weinreich

Greetings Legionnaires! Your District Adjutant with a few words during a busy very time. The Spring Conference at Ida Grove was a success with 11 of the 13 counties represented. The election of officers

provided new faces with several returning to serve another year. Congratulations to Commander Elect Haitz!

Posts need to alert Scoutmasters, ensuring that scouts who are working toward Eagle complete all

requirements and receive Eagle status before March 1st. That way the local post can enter their Scout in the Department Eagle Scout of the Year competition. First Place receives a \$10,000 scholarship with three runners up each receiving a \$2,500 scholarship!

It is difficult to find comfort in current events. As veterans and legionnaires our pledge has ALWAYS been to support and defend the Constitution. My advice in these disturbing times is that we must continue to uphold that pledge, relying on the "rule of law" to ultimately save the day and pave the way!

Memorial Day is that time when we reflect on those who served and sacrificed much, sometimes all that this great country might survive and prosper. We

owe it to the memories of those who have passed and those who live, to keep faith that our country will remain the land of the free, because it is the home of the brave!

I ask each of you to reacquaint yourselves with the "Four Pillars" of our organization. As you support your post, look at the programs under each pillar. Guide your post toward those which can be accomplished. This will support your post, your community and The American Legion.

Stay safe, stay healthy and remember that every day is Veterans Day!

### Department Adjutant's article continued from page 1

Attorney (POA) for that claim. The VSO then serves as an advocate for the veteran with the VA.

The VSOs will further develop the claim, if necessary, and represent the veteran through the adjudication process. The VSOs will also represent the veteran in higher level reviews of the claim or in the case of an appeal if the VA denies the claim.

### Why the Grant Program is Necessary

Currently, the VSOs receive no state or federal funding for the services we provide to Iowa veterans. That service is funded entirely through membership dues and donations to our organizations. Furthermore, we provide this service to all

veterans, not just those who are members of our organizations.

The challenge that the VSOs face is that our revenue is declining, because of reduced membership and increased competition for donations. Yet, the number of VA claims we represent is increasing. Our military members are surviving injuries that were not survivable in earlier war eras. The number of environmental exposures is increasing due to burn pits and other hazardous conditions. VA claims are becoming more complex, and require more time to professionally develop, so that the VA decision makers can make the right decision the first time.

The VSOs all need more staff, so that we can better represent the veterans of Iowa and get them the benefits to which they are entitled.

### For more information, contact:

John Derner, Department Adjutant  
The American Legion of Iowa  
[john@ialegon.org](mailto:john@ialegon.org)  
515-282-5068  
Randy Johnson, Legislative Chair  
The American Legion of Iowa  
[johnsonrl7696@gmail.com](mailto:johnsonrl7696@gmail.com)  
641-510-2425

## Junior Shooting Sports Program

I am very pleased to report that the American Legion Junior Shooting Sports Program has had significant growth in the 2024-25 season.

The AL State Championship Match was proud to host a 40 percent increase in shooter participation.

Many of the teams participated in many intermural, postel and state championship matches in both Iowa and Illinois. The skill of the Shooters is truly inspiring.

This program has been a real plus for my AL Post. It has helped with post membership pride as well as membership recruitment. I cannot overemphasize the value of having a youth program like this in your American legion post.

The program does take financial commitment as well as a group of people dedicated to learning how to coach sport and dedicate their time to maintaining the program.

There was a talk at the state match at Camp Dodge in Des Moines about having a coach training session at the winter conference. If you think your American legion post would be interested in starting a junior shooting sports program and would be interested in a coaching seminar, please contact Eric or myself and we'll see if we can get that set up for the winter conference.

**Thank you**

**Gary Palas, JSSP Chairman**



## Department Color Guard Competition

The Department Color Guard Contest will be held on Saturday at the Department Convention. Rules and entry forms are available on the Department website at [www.ialegion.org/departmentsconvention](http://www.ialegion.org/departmentsconvention). Each entry form must be certified by the Adjutant of the unit's sponsoring Post or District. The contest entry form must be submitted to the Department before the close of the Color Guard Registration Meeting at Department Convention. Advance registration is encouraged and may be submitted to: The American Legion of Iowa, Color Guard Competition, 720 Lyon Street, Des Moines, IA 50309. The order of appearance in the contest will be in reverse order of receipt of entry form with earliest postmark.

The American Legion Department Color Guard Contest does not limit the number of units allowed to compete in the Contest from any Post, Unit or Squadron. All color guard members will be required to register for the Department Convention as a delegate, alternate or guest with The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, or Sons of The American Legion.

The contest has two competition classes, Military Open Class and Advancing/Retiring of Colors Class.

**Military Open Class** - All units must be members of The American Legion and/or Legion Family (i.e. Sons of The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, or American Legion mixed participants). If competing for the Commander's Color Guard, all unit members competing in this class must meet all the requirements for full American Legion membership and be over 18 years of age. The unit must be composed of seven (7) members or less including the Commanding Officer.

**Advancing/Retiring of Colors Class** - All units must be members of The American Legion and/or Legion Family (i.e. Sons of The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, or American Legion mixed participants). The unit must be composed of not less than four (4) members. If the color guard consists of only four (4) members, the American Flag bearer will give all color guard commands.

To be considered for the official Department Commander's Champion Color Guard of The American Legion, those units consisting of full Legion members must have competed in Military Open Class.

## Membership Corner

Another edition, dear readers! There's sunshine (or so I assume – I'm writing this in April) and lots of summer-y things coming up.

At the end of the membership year, we'll be sending out another statement. This one will be late, due to us wrapping up the end of the fiscal year.

For some Posts, they will receive checks with their final statement. If your Post doesn't, you may be wondering how you can get one. Easy: just sign up! With the membership packet for both Posts and Squadrons, there is a Membership Account Balance Form. This form lets the Post/Squadron opt into receiving their built-up membership credit as a check. The form is also available on our website. We send out the checks quarterly, provided the account balance is above \$10. If it isn't quite to \$10, we wait until it goes over that or until the end of the membership year to send out a check.

If the Post/Squadron doesn't opt to get checks, then we don't send them. The credit will stay at Department as a credit to be used with mailed-in, paper transmittals. You may have noticed that the extra paperwork we include with the statements may say there is a check enclosed. However, those come to us that way from National. We'll only send checks to a Post/Squadron if they've filled out the form to receive them.

Hope to see you all soon at Convention! Have you ever wondered what a baseball player's least favorite Star Wars movie is? The Umpire Strikes Back.

**Ann Haack**

**Membership Clerk**

## Membership

As I write this there are still just over 3000 legionnaires that have not renewed for 2025. We need to work harder to ensure that all of our fellow veterans have been contacted and encouraged to renew. Sometimes that even requires a visit to their house. Or a phone call reminding them that they have forgotten to pay their dues. In our busy society we need to go to the extra mile to remind our fellow legionnaires that their dues are due. We as a Legion cannot grow if we keep losing members of the back door. Nor can we keep paying for our service office we don't have the members here in our department. A good number of posts are doing very well but most of us still have a ways to go. I would encourage all of you to make sure all of your members are renew. We still have an opportunity to make our target for the 2025 year. That means all posts need to ensure they have done their best to renew all of their members. Please make one last effort to ensure all of your members we know for 2025.

Would like to take this opportunity to thank commander Brian Ring for the opportunity to serve you as Membership Chairman for our Department.

## Chaplain Corner

**Cindy Yslas, Dept of IA Chaplain**

Greetings from your Dept of Iowa Chaplain. As we look ahead to the busy summers that lie before us, the Department and National Conventions on the horizon or even look back on the hecticness of watching a Senior graduate and plan and put on a celebratory event for them, we are often faced with unimaginable stress and often self-induced pressures. These pressures can lead to panic, anxiety, loss of sleep, financial concerns, depression and the thought of too much on our plate and not enough time to be everywhere or get everything done.

But we owe it to ourselves to stop! Stop for a moment and remember a few very important things that will suddenly give you peace of mind to enjoy your summer, enjoy your family and truly soak in those family moments you look forward to. First, we need to remind ourselves that we are Volunteers. We do what we do out of the goodness of our hearts and souls. People know this and most will not expect miracles from you when they remember that you are just a volunteer with a really big heart! You can only do so much in any given day.

Secondly, you CAN NOT be in two places and one time. Pick the event that will give you the most long-term impact on your life. Almost always, this is the event that revolved around family. The American Legion family will always be there (God willing) and while you step away for a short time (to focus on your real family) others will pick up the baton and continue to run with it. But your family will only be this age once, go through this milestone once in a life time, or make THESE memories TODAY, once in a lifetime...so make the memories and come back to the American Legion when the time is right and you're not resentful that you had to choose between supporting the Legion and being there for your family. Others will call on you in the future to carry the American Legion baton when it's there time to step back and put themselves and their family first!!

And Lastly, As you put together that event, whether it be a graduation party, a family reunion, a trip to Disney or across the country to visit the grand kids, remember that it's NOT about the money you spend, the food you offer your guests or the gifts you give your grandkids...it's the gift of YOU. And YOU are no good to anyone if you have let the stress of "day to day" run you down and make you ill. So, stay strong, do all the things, but put yourself first!! It's not selfish, it's the best way to continue to give of yourself in every aspect of your life, for years to come!!



## Greetings from The American Legion of Iowa Foundation,

In May, our foundation board convened to review over 90 grant requests for the 2025 year. We proudly awarded more than \$100,000 in grants, supporting programs such as Boys State, Girls State, Junior camp scholarships, veterans' rehabilitation, children and youth initiatives, Americanism, and community programs.

Unfortunately, grant requests far exceed the funds we have available. Our financial resources come from the interest generated by our permanent endowment fund, where all donations are directed. At present, our endowment stands at over \$2 million, with a goal of reaching \$3 million—your support can help us get there! During our May meeting, we also held elections, and results will be announced soon.

Foundation grant applications are available on the Iowa Legion website: (<http://ialegion.org/iafoundation>). Donation forms can be found there as well, and online giving is an option for those who wish to contribute.

Our mission remains steadfast: to improve lives through scholarships, aid for veterans, and other humanitarian efforts. Every year, grant request increase. To sustain and expand our support for these deserving causes, we must continue growing our endowment.

Thank you for your ongoing support in helping us make a meaningful impact!

**Steve Dixon**

**Foundation President**





SUMMER 2025

# AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

## DEPARTMENT OF IOWA

### *Auxiliary Communique*

SERVING VETERANS, THEIR FAMILIES AND THEIR COMMUNITIES



PAGE 7



**2024-2025  
Auxiliary President  
Verlinda Prior**

By the time you read this we will be in the month of June. Where oh where has the year gone. It has really rushed by fast. Lots of meetings and lots of food has happened this year. Both have been wonderful as my clothing will attest to at least one of those statements. As we travel through these last two months, please continue to use your voice for our Veterans. They are our mission. They are the reason we have the freedoms we have today. Please say Thank you, when you see them and don't forget the women who served they go unnoticed sometimes. I hope that all of the units are asking the female Veterans if they want to be an auxiliary member also. Sometimes we forget. Junior Camp, Girls State, and Boys State are in June so support these programs when asked.

Department Convention is in July and I am busy working on that with the help of others. Our Staff is working to make sure that we have a well ran program.

I would like to take a personal moment to thank all the units, posts and events that invited myself, my husband and Vice President Kim to your functions. You made us feel very welcome and at times like we were at our own post. The miles that are between us are not that great and it showed in how we were treated. All of Iowa can be proud of the work that the American Legion Family does. When we work together, we are a force to be reckoned with, as all could see with the sock challenge. Look how we could make a huge difference with our membership if we worked on it together.

Please make plans to attend the Convention in July. It is held in Des Moines at the Airport Holliday Inn. Several interesting programs are being planned. We need your voice.

Thank you for this last year and remember be Kind, Smile and listen when someone wants to talk, you can make a difference. God Bless America and our Veterans.



**2024-2025  
Auxiliary Vice President  
Kim Dixon**

#### Leadership

Greetings to you all. I hope that you are enjoying this lovely weather we are having as of late. As the year end begins to draw close, I just want to remind everyone about the main focus of leadership this past year. MENTORING!

Mentorship is truly one of the most powerful ways to strengthen a community. A simple conversation or a small gesture of encouragement can have a lasting impact on someone's confidence and growth. And recognizing those who have guided us along the way with a heartfelt thank-you is a beautiful way to close out the year. (You can use the card I handed out at conferences)

LEADERSHIP--it's not just about authority but about lifting others up and fostering growth. Here's to continuing that spirit of mentorship and making a positive difference, one conversation at a time!



#### Poppies

I sincerely hope all went well with poppy distribution this year. Thank you to those units that took time

to have students create a poppy poster. PLEASE look closely at the posters when judging. Many of the posters I received had misspelled words and therefore were disqualified and I was unable to send them on. These posters were fantastic too!

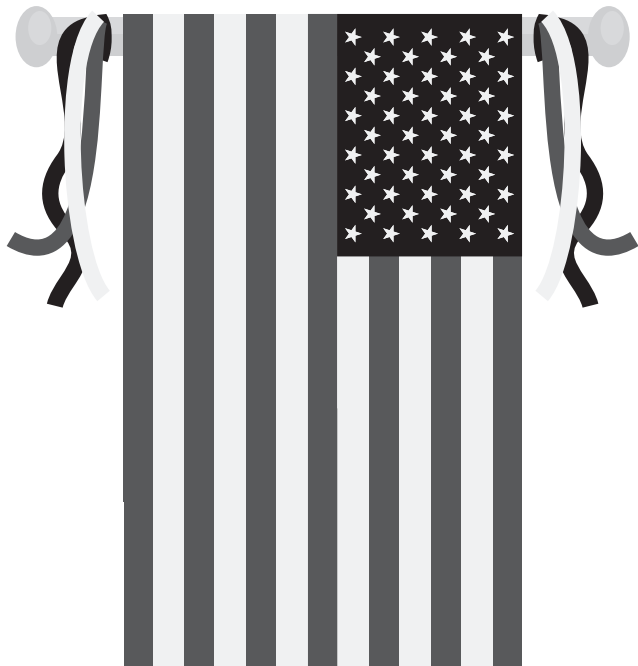
Did your unit/county get a proclamation signed by your mayor? I would love to see pictures posted on the Department Facebook group.

Lastly, I hope you reported your distribution this year and remember to hang on to those numbers to include in next years report to the chairman. This information is very important to track.



#### The Department of Iowa started May off with a bang.

Vice President Kim Dixon, Executive Director Crystal Wright, and Department Membership team member Jacki Bolen attended the Department Leadership National Conference in Indianapolis. These three brought home a wealth of knowledge and ideas to share and better serve our veterans. Let's look forward to positive input for the future of our organization!







### 1st District President Joyce Williams

Welcome summer. The only thing bad about summer are the gnats! I love everything else.

Along with doing year end reporting, I have made some visits.

First, I delivered West Point's Poppy kit. They had a short meeting then I showed them how to make the Poppys. It didn't take long for them to catch on. We had a very nice visit while we made around 30.

They thought they could take from there. I'm sure they will accomplish their goal.

Next, I went to Mechanicsville for their May meeting. They have had several members pass, go to nursing homes or the hospital. They were very interested in learning ways to build their membership. I told them about each Legion member or veteran having 6 possible Auxiliary members. They are going to ask the attending Legion members for names and contact information of their family members. And also see if they could get a copy of their roster to contact non-attending members. "Work as a Legion family. Let

people know what you do for the veterans and their families. Hang in there. Do what you can." I'm hoping to go back for Installation of their officers.

Second district president Marlene attended my conference, so I returned the favor by attending her conference. She did a good job, gave lots of information, and had great questions and answers. I really love the Memorial service they put. It was especially nice this year with the sun shining. Way to go!

Time to get to reporting and preparing for Department Convention.  
God Bless.



### 2nd District President Marlene Mertens

Hello from 2nd District!

Here it is June already! I hope everyone is enjoying the beautiful weather. It was wonderful to see everyone at our Second District

Spring Conference. Thank you to Dyersville Post and Unit for hosting. All your hard work was greatly appreciated for a successful conference. I always come away learning more about our organization, new ideas, and re-energized from our time together.

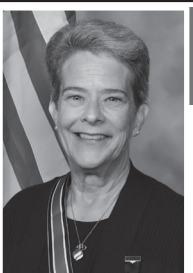
A huge thank you for your generous contributions to my project, Veterans' Homeless Outreach. Funds raised and/or donations made support the Cedar Rapids and Davenport CRRs through the Iowa City VA Medical Center. The need is great, donations are always welcome, and very appreciated!

Membership is key to our mission's success. It is not too late to get those renewals and new memberships submitted. Buddy Checks to members show we care and keep us connected. Encourage membership by sharing your reasons for joining and your enthusiasm, which can positively influence others. Have that membership application ready!

Congratulations to our new district officers for the upcoming year. They will do an awesome job leading our Second District.

It has been an honor to serve as your District President this past year. The year has flown by! Wonderful memories and new friendships were made. I've enjoyed attending many unit events/meetings and learning all the many ways our members help our veterans. Thank you all for your great support!

Look forward to seeing many of you at the 2025 Department Convention July 18-20th!



### 3rd District President Stacy Bane

Hello all!

I am writing this, while riding the Iowa Veterans Home bus (volunteering), taking Vietnam residents to Des Moines for a ceremony, honoring all Vietnam Veterans. It is held at the Vietnam Veterans Monument, on the capitol grounds, every year.

When I joined the Auxiliary, I didn't really know what it was about. Twenty years later, my year as 3rd District President is coming to an end! Like others that join, the early years are learning the ropes of the Legion/Auxiliary programs, going to meetings, helping with

fundraisers for those programs, attending informative conferences and some volunteering. I am honored that I have had your support throughout this year!

I have met many great people, in and out of our district, and I now realize how busy our units and counties really are, and how much time and money is donated by them each year! Cudos to you all for the support you show our veterans, in all you do!!

I have found, over the years, that my passion is volunteering, especially at the Iowa Veterans Home, in Marshalltown, Iowa. I believe, in the early days of the Legion/Auxiliary, there was much more hands-on volunteering from members. As the years progressed, supporting Veterans thru programs became more of the "norm", and the Legion Family does a WONDERFUL

job of that! No two ways about it! But we seem to have gotten away from the "hands-on" part.

Life is busy, I get it, but our veterans, some with no family, would really appreciate having someone to listen to their stories, help them write a letter, take them to appointments, etc. Things we take for granted. All it takes is checking with your local nursing homes, churches, city halls in your community, to see if they can help you find those veterans that would benefit from a visit or a little help.

It has been a privilege to serve the 3rd District and I thank everyone for having faith in me! I'm proud of the things we accomplished this past year, and it can't be done without our members!!!

Service Not Self



### 4th District President Susan Franzen

4th District Spring Conference was held on April 19th in Independence. Thank you to the Legion and Auxiliary for hosting the event and the wonderful meal provided.

We had a busy meeting with great reports from

various committees. Elections and installation of new Officers for 2025-2026 was also done. I will be serving another year as President and we have a great team of Officers Elect: Vice Pres. Carrie Chesmore and Tanya Scott; Secretary, Sandy Barnes; Treasurer, Tammy Lamb; Historian, Jina Schulte and Parliamentarian, Jayne Soppe. We are in need of a Chaplain. Please let me know if you are willing to serve.

We also recognized Janet Stern Unit 101 Mason City as 4th District Member of the Year! Congratulations to a

very dedicated member living the mission of service. Thank you Janet!

4th District will be purchasing a blanket warmer for the IVH. Thank you to all who have supported my project this year.

National Poppy Day is May 23! Please promote the good that donations do for Veterans. There will be Memorial Day Services in all our Communities, please be sure to support them by attending. Thank you for all you do.



### 5th District President Tammi Quinlan

Another year is flying by. At our fall meeting we appointed a fundraiser committee. They hit it out of the ballpark. They did a raffle for a train ride in Boone and held a silent auction at our Spring District

Conference. Their ideas worked out great to raise some money for our District. Great job Sharon and Francine!!

New officers were elected at our Spring Conference. Three ladies stepped up and I am excited to see what their year has in store. Kristi Bridges from Oskaloosa Unit was nominated and agreed to being 5th District President, Gail Johnson from Deep River Unit will continue her journey as Vice President again and Doris Jackson from Lorimor Unit will remain Secretary/Treasurer. I thank you all for stepping up for our District and our Veterans.

5th District Commander Gary Quinlan and myself had a very large project that we wanted to accomplish. We wanted to put a Be The One billboard on Interstate

80. Due to lack of donations for that project, we have decided to change things up. We have decided to provide Be The One signage for our District Posts instead of a billboard.

It has been a great experience serving as 5th District President for the last two years. I have met so many amazing people and learned so much. Thank you for all of your support. Please continue that support for the new officers





**6th District President  
Jamie Barker**

Greetings 6th District! This is my final message to you all and as such, I want to thank you all for being such incredible members showing me support along the way. Having a group of leaders to help guide me was an invaluable resource and being your District President was an honor I will not forget. We held our 6th District Conference on April 26th in the beautiful Van Meter post and I'd like to extend a huge thank you to those members that helped us all feel right at home. We had a wonderful turnout with so many members wearing their purple for our Month of the Military Child. Many thanks to department leaders for coming and sharing information with us! We held our business

meeting, had many program reports, learned about the Creative Arts Festival that the Auxiliary sponsors and held elections before a time for a meal together. Please join me in welcoming our new elected officers: President, Sharon Luellen, Vice President, Sherri Rosener, Treasurer, Linda Henderson, and Secretary Joelyn Gast. Sharon will be the next author of this article and share the rest of her executive team with you all, but trust that this is a dynamite bunch of leaders to guide us through the next year!

As we move forward into May, it is time to think about those Poppy Distributions and I know you've all been busy making them and fluffing them up to share with your communities. Be proud and wear that poppy for those that make our lives, as we know them, possible. Memorial Day is a time of remembrance and if your community holds a ceremony, please be present, participate in events such as wreath laying and/

or parades. Remembering the sacrifices our service members make is the small part of a great big THANK YOU!

I am beginning to plan one final hoorah before my term ends in July and that is a "Be the One" training. The Iowa trainers have agreed to come present for us on June 17th at Highland Park Post 374 in Des Moines. The training will be held from 6-7 pm with an intermission before some role playing from 7-8pm. Stay for that final hour if you can! Space is limited and I will send sign up and more detailed information to your Unit Presidents soon!

As I close, please know that I will cherish all the friendships, the guidance, and the prayers I received along the way. Supporting our Veterans is our mission and you all have shown me many ideas to do just that. God Bless you all and God Bless our Veterans.



**7th District President  
Rhonda Russell**

Greeting from Bedford! Department convention is getting closer every day!! This will be July 18-20. It's time to find some delegates to vote. We have one of our own 7th District

members running for Vice President. Let's pack that caucus room and the floor with District 7 members!! I am hoping for a large group to show our support!!



**9th District President  
Linda Lux**

Greetings from the 9th District Auxiliary! It is May and time to distribute Poppies and honor our fallen veterans at Memorial Day programs all over 9th District, Iowa and the nation. ALA unit 384 in Milford is sponsoring their poppy project again this year. For a donation, families will receive one ceramic poppy on a garden stake with a personalized ribbon attached with the name of their loved one and branch of service. These ceramic poppies are made by the local high school art students. A Poppy field will be

located just west of Perkins on Hwy 86 from May 21 - 27. Unit 389 in Anthon is sponsoring a Kids Day Food Stand on May 23 and 24th at the Anthon Legion Hall serving taverns, hot dogs, chips, pie and bars, drinks. The Kingsley Community Action Club will be cooking breakfast at Nash Post 140 on Memorial Day. American Patriot Riders Thunder on the Missouri will be May 25 at the Sgt Bluff Legion Post 662. To see all these events visit the 9th District American Legion and the 9th District American Legion Auxiliary facebook pages. As I am gearing up to submit my year end impact report, I have received a few more narratives from units/ counties that didn't make it to the Spring conference.

I want to share a few highlights from the reports. Battle Creek #364 donated to several community projects

such as paving the cemetery road and scholarships at the local high school. They sponsor a craft fair 2 times a year. Lester unit # 683 has children decorate crosses with wreaths and flags for each 96 veterans and 25 auxiliary members. Larchwood unit #561 hosts a soup luncheon on Election Day, members send cards to veterans all year long for special occasions. The First Annual Veterans Resource event in 9th District will be held June 7th 10-2 at the Ocheyedan Town Hall. This is for veterans and their families. Several organizations will be there with information: SF VA, South Dakota Veteran Cemetary, area AL and ALA representatives, County VA Officers, and Iowa Works. For more information call 712-754-2514, 712-330-4997 or 712-348-3960.

**EDUCATION**

Many hands of Iowa are teachers showing the youth positive ways of learning to prepare them for the future. If a student plans to continue their education after high school, there will be expense in this next phase of their education. The Department of Iowa ALA has merit awards to help with that expense that they can apply for in one simple application. This application can be found on the department website [www.iowaala.org](http://www.iowaala.org) under forms/resources for today's youth including financial/scholarship. The applicant must be a veteran or parent, spouse, widow, direct or adopted descendant of a veteran and a resident of the state of Iowa. The student must be planning on attending a college, university, professional, nursing, trade school, commercial or vocational education in an accredited school within the state of Iowa. These awards are \$500 each and the student can apply up to 4 different awards with this one application. The applicant can currently be enrolled in a college when applying. The application, essay, letters of recommendation, unit or post letter of verification/ recommendation, and transcript must reach me by June 1, 2025. Winners will be announced at the Iowa American Legion Auxiliary Department Convention in July. Donna Flewelling, Chairman [flewellingdj@gmail.com](mailto:flewellingdj@gmail.com)



**NEWTON CHRISTIAN  
CONFERENCE CENTER  
NEWTON, IA**

**FRIDAY, JUNE 13, 2025  
REGISTRATION @ 8:30  
CONVENTION @ 9:00**

**DEPARTMENT  
JUNIOR CONVENTION**

will be held June 13, 2025. At the Newton Christian Conference Center. Registration starts at 8:30 and the call to conference at 9:00. Come out and support Kenzie closes out her year as Honorary Dept. Jr President. You may attend even if you didn't go to Jr. Camp. Looking forward to seeing you there! Don't forget to keep working on those patches! Utilize those Junior and young SAL members as you distribute the poppies this month; those cute faces really bring in the dough!  
Rosemary Lancaster



The Impact of the Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF) in 2024–2025 - Standing Strong in Crisis

Jackie Westover, AEF Chairperson

The 2024–2025 fiscal year brought unprecedented challenges to members of the American Legion Auxiliary. From devastating floods and tornadoes to man-made wildfires, our communities were tested like never before. In the face of these hardships, the Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF) emerged as a vital source of relief, resilience, and hope.

Thanks to the inspiring generosity of donors across the nation, AEF responded swiftly and compassionately. In just the first half of the fiscal year, we more than doubled the number of

grants awarded compared to the entire previous year. Between October 1, 2024, and May 1, 2025, nearly \$500,000 in grants were distributed to members in need across the country.

Under the leadership of Iowa Department President Verlinda Prior and guided by her theme “Iowa’s Many Hands of Service,” the Auxiliary demonstrated unwavering commitment to service. Despite the devastation, our members stood together—offering not only financial assistance but also emotional and practical support to those affected.

However, the need continues to outpace our resources. While \$443,706 in grants were awarded during the reporting period, only \$253,384 was raised between June 1, 2024, and March 31, 2025. This gap underscores the urgent need for continued support and awareness.

Looking Ahead: A Call to Action

As we reflect on the past year, one truth is clear: the Auxiliary Emergency Fund is essential in times of crisis. It is more than a financial resource—it is a lifeline that embodies the spirit of “members helping members.”

We call on all units to:

- Promote awareness of the AEF and its mission.
- Encourage emergency preparedness within your communities.
- Support fundraising efforts to ensure we can meet future needs.

Together, we can ensure that no member stands alone in times of hardship. The American Legion Auxiliary family rises together—proving that compassion, unity, and service can truly change lives.



What’s in the Bag/Basket?

Categories:

- ~ Beauty and Fashion
- ~ Entertainment
- ~ Health and Wellness
- ~ Sports equipment
- ~ Gardening
- ~ Fun and Games
- ~ Camping
- ~ College or NFL sports teams
- ~ Patriotic
- ~ Military branches

**When:** Friday, July 18th, 2025 during Department Convention

Set up: Starts at 10am  
Bidding; starts at 12pm

**Where:** Domed Atrium of the hotel

**Why:** To raise funds for Junior Camp!

\*Each bag/basket must have a tag with one of the categories and a hint of the content inside

**Bags/Baskets can include:** purses, backpacks, suitcases, duffelbags, wooden baskets, briefcases, or any good quality bag/basket you can find!

**Other important information:** Each district President has been asked to bring one bag/basket to represent your district at Convention. Unit members, please consider bringing something to contribute to your district basket this year! Top selling district bag/basket will receive a \$50 donation towards their Districts President’s Project.







## The 2025 Department Legion Baseball champion is Swisher Post 671 from the 1st District

They won the State Tournament by beating Dubuque County by a score of 8-0 on May 4th. Swisher has won the championship game three years in a row. Swisher will play in the National tournament on Aug 6th in West Fargo, ND. Swisher played the host team Marion Post 298 Linn-Marr in the semifinals, beating them 2-1. Grayson Kirsch of the Swisher team was awarded the Earl H. Proctor & Esther J. Proctor Most Valuable Player of the State tournament. In the championship game Grayson pitched 5 scoreless innings, had 5 strikeouts, at the plate he went 2 for 3 with a 3-run homer and a total of 5 rbi's. There were 9 teams that participated in the tournament. Area 1 was played at Spirit Lake hosted by Iowa Lakes Milford Post 384. Moville Post 303 Futures won the area by beating Iowa Lakes 12-1 and beating Le Mars Wasmer Post 241 11-1.

Area 2 was played at Carroll, Swisher won by beating Carroll 5-0 and beating Ottumwa 9-1.

Area 3 was played at Marion hosted by Marion Post 298. Dubuque Co won by beating Marion 6-0 and beating Hiawatha 5-2. A big thank you to Marion Post 298 for running the State tournament and thank you to all the volunteers and Legion Families that helped in the Area tournament.

**Mike Weber**

**Iowa Dept, Baseball Chairman**

**PH: 563-590-4993**



**Swisher Iowa State baseball winners.  
2nd District Commander, Dick Bries**



## Darrin Alderson Endorsed candidate for Department Commander The American Legion of Iowa

I am excited to introduce myself and the goals I have planned if I am elected to be the Department Commander for the American Legion of Iowa.

The mission is "BeTheOne". We need to "Be The One" to continue to battle against veteran suicide. "Be The One" to reach out to all veterans, whether they are American Legion members or not, so we are able help those who are suffering in silence.

The Motto I chose is GROW (Goals, Reality, Options, Will).

Goals - In life we all must grow and seek to be better and that goes for the American Legion as well. One of the most effective ways to grow is to develop and implement goals that we strive to achieve. We must set traditional goals such as demonstrating the value of being an American Legion member in order to spread the knowledge of how we can help. This allows us to grow in our understanding of others and how they may be suffering a silent crisis. Goals let all veterans in Iowa know The American Legion is here to help.

Reality - We must accept the reality that what we have done in the past and where we go in the future may not look the same, but nevertheless, we must adapt. It is crucial that we remain open to different perspectives and accept ideas that allow us to accomplish more together.

Options - The options we have are endless. We have invested valuable resources in our members and programs that provide us with many options when it comes to taking care of our veterans. The investment we make in our members allows us to continue to serve veterans in a way that works for everyone.

Will - Veterans understand the desire to persevere when a challenge gets hard. It is vital we have the will to push through challenges to serve our members and ensure they feel supported by the community.

Now, I would like to introduce myself. My eligibility to be a member of The American Legion comes from my service in the USMC 1990-1994 as a Combat Engineer. I have been happily married to my beautiful wife, Lisa, for 28 years and we have two wonderful daughters, Rachel and Kelsey. Rachel is my oldest and she is a second-year law student at Drake University Law School. She and her husband, Drew, recently moved back to Oskaloosa with our new grandson, Meyer James. Kelsey, our youngest, and is a phlebotomist at Mercy Hospital. I'm employed at C&W Services as a Planning and Schedule supervisor.

At my post (Post 34 in Oskaloosa) I have served as 1st Vice, 2nd Vice, Post Commander, and Adjunct. At the district level, I have served as District Commander and Adjutant, Department Vice Commander and Marketing chair. Nationally, I am currently the National Marketing Vice Chair.

**For God & country,**

**Darrin Alderson**



## Veterans helping Veterans

These veterans got together Thursday, March 27th to build a wheelchair ramp for fellow Veteran Gene Thorne ... his wife Tina Thorne passed on her great appreciation to all of them for taking the time out of their day to think about Gene and Tina in such an incredible way!!

This ramp will certainly help Gene get outside to enjoy the warm weather with his family and grandchildren.

Cindy Yslas

**Back row - Harold Huhe,  
Jim Perry, Marshall Rogne  
Middle row - Dodd Franklin,  
Gene Thorne, Howie Hanson  
Front - Mark Grinhaus**



## Americanism=

Allegiance to the traditions, institutions and ideals of The United States of America. Allegiance or loyalty defines how we should feel towards one's country, where they live. As we approach the end of May and the beginning of June and July our allegiance and loyalty to our country becomes more significant with Memorial Day, Flag Day, Father's Day, and The Fourth (4) of July all happens within six (6) weeks of each other. How important and significant are these six (6) weeks? Memorial Day is past, but it's date and meaning says a lot in terms of memories, pride and honor of those we remember, the sacrifices made by the many who serve their country to ensure our freedoms as well as remembering those family members who gave part of their lives for all of us. Which brings us to June 14th reminding each of the importance this day has, as to what the significance and meaning our flag has for each of us. No other Countries flag colors have the meaning as does the RED, WHITE and BLUE. The meaning of those colors is why all Nationalities strive to come to America. Father's Day, had it not been for the foresight of our forefathers in their quest to live a free life of one's rule, and sat down united together for a common cause to write and formulate our Constitution giving us some guidance to live by. July 4th is our nation's birthday, the birth of a new nation with a much sought after way of living for all nationalities. With each person taking responsibility for their own actions showing respect for others and for themselves. Our greatest privilege is our right to vote and to make choices. Americanism chairmen have your reports in to department in orderly time.

### For God and Country

**James Kessler**

**Department Americanism Chairmen**



**Glenwood High School,  
Commander Ring presents,  
Boys State Certificate,  
2 Legion Post 141  
Scholarships, 2 Legion  
Citizenship Awards**

## American Legion Riders

Riders, here we are again, winter's long gone and the roads are wide open. Well, except for the never-ending construction parts. Remember, truck traffic entering or leaving the roadway is obvious, but in states like Iowa where helmets aren't required the injuries from being hit by rocks and other debris from them is much greater. I have a rule when I ride to not follow dump trucks, boats, or landscape trailers. I don't care if I have to leave a route to take another way, the chances of being injured from whatever may blow out or off is just too much. I know I've lost cushions and life vests from boats over the years, I can't imagine taking one of them to the chest.

I know each District is planning their Legacy Rides for 2025, remember to contact the posts in your District and let them know that any funds they would send in for the Veterans and Children Foundation can be given to the Riders. Bring those funds to Department Convention,

and you'll present them to the commander. Then we'll take them to Tampa. In a previous article I mentioned a statewide Legacy Ride, I would still like a couple volunteers to get together and explore the idea of an Iowa Legacy Ride. Make it a multi-day event, because if other states can pull it off, I know the best Riders in the country sure can.

District Chairs, make sure you communicate with your Dist. Commander on what they need from you. Get out and visit your chapters, be present. We have more chapters coming online in 2025, to me that says we're doing this right. Help them succeed.

Ride safe and Ride Often everyone, and we'll see you in Des Moines for the Riders Meeting.



## RETIREE

### APPRECIATION DAY FOR ALL MILITARY RETIREES AND MILITARY VETERANS

On Thursday, August 14th from 0700 to approximately 1230 hours the U.S. Army Fort McCoy Retirement Services Office and the Central Iowa Military Retiree Committee will sponsor a Retiree Appreciation Day (RAD). This event will be held at American Legion Post 403, 910 Main Street, Van Meter IA, 50261. Get updated information on military retiree benefits, TRICARE, Dental, VA eligibility and programs, funeral planning, financial planning, Iowa Veterans Cemetery, and more. This is a free event, there is no cost to attend. However, pre-registration is requested to assure an accurate headcount for vendors, a continental breakfast and seating. If interested, please email your name, phone number and if you will be bringing a guest to: [centraliowamilitaryretirees@gmail.com](mailto:centraliowamilitaryretirees@gmail.com).

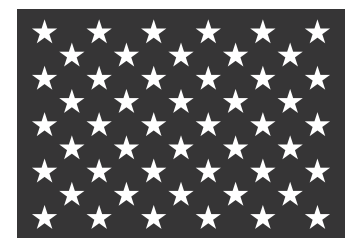


### J.L. Shryer Post 430 Durant, IA Mark Abels, American Legion Educator of the Year

Seven years ago, American Legion Post 430 in Durant started to develop a U.S. Constitution essay for the 7-8th grade to try and help bridge a gap between the 5th Grade Flag Essay and the high school Oratorical Contest and to keep the Legion in contact with the students during these developmental years. In working with Mr. Abels, we developed a structure that would best suit the 7-8th graders capabilities and worked on a time to hold the essay to coordinate with his class curriculum when he was teaching the Constitution. After the first two years we felt we could open it up to include the 6th grade as well. This meant that the



American Legion would be present from the 5th grade through high school for the student's benefit. During the essay timeframe Mr. Abels challenges his students to participate in not only this contest but also encourages 8th graders to continue into high school and participate in the Oratorical Contest. For his 6-8th grade students he also rewards those who participate with Casey's gift cards for their efforts. Another contest that he also helps to promote is 'the Veterans of Foreign Wars Patriot's Pen essay for 6-8th grades.



**FREE  
PROUD**





**CALL FOR  
THE ONE-HUNDRED AND SIXTH ANNUAL CONVENTION  
THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF IOWA**

The One-Hundred and Sixth Annual Convention of The American Legion, Department of Iowa, will be held in Des Moines, Iowa, July 18, 19, and 20, 2025. The Convention will be called to order at 4:00 p.m., Friday, July 18, in Ballroom Central and South of the Holiday Inn Airport Conference Center in Des Moines, Iowa.

- PURPOSE**
- The Convention is called for the purpose of:
- Electing Department Officers for the ensuing year;
  - Ratification of Constitution and Bylaws;
  - Selecting the place of holding the One Hundred and Eighth Annual Department Convention;
  - Selecting delegates and alternates to the One-Hundred and Sixth Annual National Convention; and
  - For the transaction of such other business as may be brought before the Convention.

**REPRESENTATION**

Representation will be by Post. Each Post is entitled to two delegates and two alternates, provided it has at least 15 paid up members by 4:00 p.m. June 18, 2025. Each Post is also entitled to one delegate and one alternate for each additional 50 paid up members or a major fraction thereof, whose dues have been paid on or before 4:00 p.m. June 18, 2025.

The vote of each Post will be equal to the total number of delegates to which it is entitled.

All Past Department Commanders of the Iowa Department of The American Legion, who are members in good standing in any Post in the Department, present and in attendance at the Department Convention, shall be entitled to all the privileges of a delegate to said convention, and entitled to a vote therein.

**SELECTION OF DELEGATES**

All Post delegates and alternates to the Convention will be selected at a regular meeting of the Post, or a special meeting called for that purpose.

Post Adjutants should give notice in writing to each member of the Post of the date, time, purpose, and place of such meeting, and the number of delegates to which it is entitled in the Convention.

Alternates have power to vote only in the absence of delegates but have all other privileges of delegates.

Delegates should be chosen with care as they have voting power of the Post on all questions brought before the Convention.

**EXPENSES OF DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES**

Expenses of delegates and alternates who attend as Post representatives must be paid by their Post or by themselves, as no authority exists for the Department to pay the expenses of any delegate to the Convention.

Each delegation may have as its guests such members of The American Legion and their families as it sees fit to invite to accompany it. Insofar as space will permit, they will be admitted to the Convention Hall.

Press representatives accompanying delegations will be accorded every facility for their work at the Convention. They should report to the Department Headquarters office upon arrival.

**DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS**

Department Headquarters will be Room 298 of the Airport Holiday Inn, Des Moines, Iowa. Regular and routine correspondence should be sent as usual to the Department Headquarters, 720 Lyon St., Des Moines, Iowa 50309.

**REGISTRATION AND HOUSING**

Delegates, alternates, and guests attending the Convention must register. A \$20.00 registration fee will be collected from all delegates, alternates, and guests at registration.

Delegates, alternates, and guests attending the Convention should address all inquiries relative to hotel reservations directly with the designated convention hotel(s).

**CREDENTIALS FOR DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES**

Credentials for delegates and alternates based upon the number to which each Post is entitled will be given at registration. All delegates, alternates and guests will be required to wear their badge to gain admittance into the Convention Hall.

**OFFICIALS**

Present Department and Post Officers, members of the Department Executive Committee, except Past Department Commanders, Officers of District and County organizations, unless selected as delegates and alternates to the Convention by their Post, have no privileges in the Convention except as guests of their respective delegations.

It is suggested that these officials be made members of the official Post delegation, as their experience will be exceedingly valuable to the delegation.

**RESOLUTIONS**

Any Post or accredited delegate to the Convention may submit resolutions embodying constructive suggestions for the welfare of The American Legion. They should be in duplicate, typewritten, and shall be turned into the Department Adjutant on or before July 4, 2025, in order that the resolutions may be referred to the Resolutions Assignment Committee. A Resolution form with instructions is enclosed. More can be obtained by contacting the Department Adjutant.

**CONVENTION COMMITTEES**

Friday, July 18, 2025, 1:00 p.m.

Special rooms will be provided for these committees. Time and place of future meetings of the Convention Committees will be set at the first meetings.

**DISTRICT CAUCUSES**

**Saturday, July 19, 2025, 2:00 p.m.**

District caucuses will be held at 2:00 p.m. Special rooms will be provided. The districts will conduct such business as may properly come before such caucuses.

**JOHN A. DERNER**  
Department Adjutant

**BRIAN RING, SR.**  
Department Commander



<b>SPENCER #1</b> Gale E Igou	<b>ANKENY #42</b> Ole J Modtland Leroy Clabaugh Larry W Crees Mercer W Nicholson Charles W Briar	<b>STORM LAKE #115</b> Ken L Weaverling	<b>ALTON #200</b> Ronald L Minten	<b>OSAGE #278</b> Roy R Miller	<b>CARLISLE #391</b> Marvin W Grace	<b>WALCOTT #548</b> Kenneth P Thorndyke	<b>BRUNSVILLE #724</b> Marvin Urban Ralph Klemme Marvin J Korver
<b>COUNCIL BLUFFS #2</b> Robert E Gustin Jack Pedersen George W Smith George Head Ernest L Gutha	<b>MARSHALLTOWN #46</b> Clair E Long Craig A Ackley	<b>GUTHRIE CENTER #124</b> Delbert Benton	<b>PALMER #202</b> Vern Metzger	<b>PARKERSBURG #285</b> Wayne C Dudley	<b>SHELLROCK #393</b> Daniel S Vance	<b>FAIRBANK #552</b> Richard D Duffy	<b>IOWA #729</b> Philip Vandermeide Donald Sorensen James R Barman Daniel F Heying David Harrell Lanny J Dvorak
<b>OTTUMWA #3</b> David L Wardlow Harley A Ward Jr James L West Jr James R Colvin Daniel M Cloke Jack Pfaff Willard E Watts James R Woodard Donald O Flinn Kimberly Maher Timothy R Fridley	<b>DALLAS CENTER #49</b> Albert M Sandstrom	<b>FT. DODGE #130</b> Norman Edwards	<b>MANSON #204</b> Melvin H Renken	<b>CLARENCE #286</b> Edward Crock	<b>VAN METER #403</b> John P Volk Dennis E Sutherland Chauncey Chapman	<b>ELMA #597</b> Michael J Farrington Patrick J Palmersheim John L Lentz	<b>MARSHALLTOWN #739</b> Rudy A Frye Steve Roberts Ronald Wetjen Pamela Krigbaum
<b>DUBUQUE #6</b> Lloyd S GudenKauf Albert J Heiberger Alfred G Heitzman James L Kluesner Robert J Kramer Lyle A Gassmann Robert F Kruse Wayne Valentine	<b>BURLINGTON #52</b> William R Lowe	<b>BEAMAN #131</b> Hume McMartin	<b>MONTICELLO #209</b> Dale F Glawatz	<b>DEEP RIVER #296</b> Robert Brennan	<b>MURRAY #405</b> Stephen L Potter	<b>PROTIVIN #605</b> Edward C Svoboda	<b>SQUADRON EVERLASTING</b>
<b>W. DES MOINES #620</b> Richard Huber	<b>GRINNELL #53</b> Robert M Dimit Darrel E Lamb Roger W McCulley James Adkins Daniel D Jones	<b>ALBIA #136</b> Ronnie E Griffin	<b>WOODWARD #211</b> David G Croft	<b>MARION #298</b> William R Zaruba Joseph B Rosenberger David L White Fred J Madison Sr Gary A McGlashing Stephen V Elam	<b>EVERLY #414</b> Gary L Biederman	<b>MAGNOLIA #612</b> James E Hoover	<b>WASHINGTON #29</b> James E Buck
<b>IDA GROVE #61</b> Lodean H Korner	<b>VICTOR #54</b> Roger A Evans Jimmy Vanersvelde	<b>DYERSVILLE #137</b> Thomas H Lucas David F Steffen John W Vonderhaar Ronald J March Donald A Demmer Jr Herb Clemen	<b>CENTERVILLE #214</b> James L Kluxdal Harold Hulme	<b>ROLAND #307</b> Thomas A Nolte	<b>HOSPERS #423</b> Robert Roetman	<b>WADENA #631</b> Fred A Davidson	<b>TOLEDO #72</b> Tom B Novak
<b>BOONE #56</b> Roger D Moravetz	<b>WATERLOO #138</b> Evan Hultman Gilbert A Gubbels Jack Kuper Lawrence J Chase Robert Collentine	<b>CLEAR LAKE #222</b> Carroll L Etchen	<b>STRAWBERRY PT #218</b> Cheryl L Winter	<b>MECHANICSVILLE #309</b> Dennis V Pisarik Ernest H Albaugh	<b>WELLMAN # 427</b> Daryl Baughman Jack L Dillon	<b>MELCHER #632</b> William Kauzlarich	<b>MARENGO #76</b> Tracy Stake
<b>KINGSLEY #140</b> Gary Hunwardsen	<b>AVOCA #227</b> Richard L Krenzer	<b>FARMINGTON #231</b> Donald W Shaffer	<b>AVOCA #227</b> Richard L Krenzer	<b>HAWKEE #312</b> Leon J Dietzenbach David A Pleggenkuhle	<b>DURANT #430</b> Darrol D Price Dale E Lilienthal	<b>ELDRIDGE #639</b> Robert A Ackerman	<b>LORIMOR #96</b> Mark E Martin
<b>SIoux CITY #64</b> Steve Hanner	<b>POLK CITY #232</b> Larry A Epley	<b>CAMBRIDGE #233</b> Gary L Shepley	<b>NORWAY #234</b> Jerry Driscoll	<b>BRITT #315</b> Eugene G Berhow	<b>QUASQUETON #434</b> Ronald R Walthart Harold E Powers	<b>NEWBURG #640</b> Mike D Kriegel	<b>Newton #111</b> Stephen C Rodgers
<b>CHARTER OAK #66</b> Norman E Christiansen Robert C Stoltze Jr	<b>CEDAR FALLS #237</b> Robert G Hansen Donald D Lindaman	<b>LEMArs #241</b> Ike S Pottebaum	<b>REINBEK #242</b> Robert L Conrad	<b>ROCK VALLEY #321</b> John Vandentop	<b>AURORA #435</b> John A Thimmesch	<b>ORCHARD #641</b> John Lacoste Richard W Rogers	<b>FARMINGTON #231</b> Jason L Turpin
<b>CORYDON #68</b> William Gode Bob Dodson	<b>SIBLEY #324</b> Roger L Poppen Richard Agar Robert Tiedemann	<b>OCHEYEDAN #326</b> Clarence Hellinga Robert Hibma	<b>MCCALLSBURG #334</b> Carlton E Karns	<b>ELK HORN #322</b> Dalton Gregersen	<b>SILVER CITY #439</b> Richard D Hedrick	<b>SCHLESWIG #645</b> D Schmidt Herman C Kohnekamp	<b>LAWLER #279</b> Stephen J Hurd
<b>CRESTON #70</b> Jamie Benoit	<b>INDIANOLA #165</b> Martin R Bishop Lloyd W Dales	<b>FONTANELLE #247</b> Bruce A Westphal	<b>DYSART #335</b> Larry Winkelpleck	<b>MISSOURI VALLEY #337</b> Richard D Isom	<b>NEW SHARON #446</b> James L Sharp	<b>NORA SummerS #449</b> James E Elsbury	<b>PARKERSBURG #285</b> Kevin D Siems
<b>GARWIN #71</b> Steven J Buchanan Sr	<b>ACKLEY #252</b> Stanton B Brandt Louie Feikes Harry Carson	<b>WYOMING #259</b> Kenneth R Harms	<b>WALL LAKE #262</b> Leroy Rowedder	<b>BRAYTON #350</b> Willis N Nelsen Gary L Olsen	<b>RHODES #456</b> John F McCarthy	<b>DES MOINES #659</b> Phillip D Munoz Arnold R Cassidy	<b>WHITING #481</b> Ronald I Copple
<b>TOLEDO #72</b> Les Koch Eugene J Vesely	<b>MT AYR #172</b> James E Mahan Jr	<b>WEBSTER CITY #191</b> Raymond T Wiggins	<b>BELEVUE #273</b> David L Ernst Lee M Weber Donald A Frank Gerald V Koppes	<b>HULL #380</b> Terry Anderson	<b>LONE TREE #457</b> Robert L Fisher	<b>LIBERTY CENTER #661</b> Maurice V Goode	<b>ELLSTON #541</b> Zachery L Bounds
<b>MARNEGO #76</b> Lawrence W Quinlan Bob Robertson	<b>WAVERLY #176</b> Arthur C Frick	<b>ELDORA #182</b> James K Collins	<b>AKRON #186</b> Kervyn L Heeren Floyd E Waterbuy	<b>GREENFIELD #265</b> Larry J Vandewater	<b>CALAMUS #466</b> Dennis R Haley	<b>WEST POINT #668</b> Gary L Turnbull	
<b>CORRECTIONVILLE #79</b> Ardell M Banta Sr	<b>PELLA #89</b> Alvin R Van Zee Orville J Dunkin Michael C Klimstra	<b>IA FALLS #188</b> Darrell L Adams Robert W Shaner Leonard L Stauffer John P Whitesell	<b>MCGREGOR #267</b> Robert L Eggen Neal W Perry Jerome J Link	<b>ST. ANSGAR #358</b> Gerald Nash Ikaikaalakai H Boyle	<b>DIKE #471</b> Calvin C Staudt Thomas J Murphy	<b>SWISHER #671</b> John E Hardin	
<b>PAULLINA #95</b> Francis L Goebel	<b>CLARINDA #98</b> James M Crawford	<b>MINBURN #99</b> Lloyd Miller Richard H Reitz James E Cornelius Sr	<b>GREENE #268</b> Dale E Shatzer	<b>MONROE #363</b> Ronald Strother	<b>DONNELLSON #474</b> Glenn E Wagner Martin L Graber	<b>PALO #679</b> Raymond A Buelow Ronald Potts	
<b>OSKALOOSA #34</b> Roger Sarver Neal E Wolfe Martin Hogate Roosevelt W Reed	<b>WEBSTER CITY #191</b> Raymond T Wiggins	<b>CHURDAN #198</b> Alan L Sorenson David D Sabus	<b>DES MOINES #274</b> Virgil E Larsen Robert K Moore Thomas Heston	<b>LAKE PARK #371</b> Gerald G Zahren Charles D Tolk Don L Schroeder	<b>OAKVILLE #489</b> Frank L Campbell	<b>ALTOONA #682</b> Herman L Clark	
<b>BELMOND #35</b> Tommy J Hill	<b>EMMETSBURG #192</b> Alden M Hermansen Jr	<b>SIoux CENTER #199</b> William J Plantage Lyle Vanroekel Herlan Schut	<b>PRAIRIE CITY #275</b> Joseph W Sparks Gene L Vandelune Marvin L Pulver	<b>MILFORD #384</b> Kent Kastrup	<b>DOUDS #494</b> Philip A Countryman	<b>RUNNELLS #689</b>	
<b>AMES #37</b> Wayne Fuhlbrugge	<b>MASON CITY #101</b> Donald Sampson Randal A Flaherty	<b>ROCK RAPIDS #103</b> Leonard D Berg Robert Vandekop	<b>ELKADER #106</b> Gerald R Kramer	<b>ANTHON #389</b> Wayne Schumann	<b>CASTANA #502</b> Ralph Wickersham Jr Jerome G Doidge Richard R Davis Bernie A Erickson Clifford L Harding	<b>ST LUCAS #691</b> Anthony J Kruse Alex Schmitt	
<b>BELLE PLAINE #39</b> Gerald M Stewart Charles Peterzalek	<b>CLARINDA #98</b> James M Crawford	<b>MINBURN #99</b> Lloyd Miller Richard H Reitz James E Cornelius Sr	<b>WEBSTER CITY #191</b> Raymond T Wiggins	<b>CHURDAN #198</b> Alan L Sorenson David D Sabus	<b>JANESVILLE #522</b> Jack E Lockett Jack D Decker James C Stokes Thomas R Brickman	<b>ARCADIA #694</b> Ronald Kraus Larry D Behrens	
<b>KEOKUK #41</b> Daniel A Dietrich	<b>ROCK RAPIDS #103</b> Leonard D Berg Robert Vandekop	<b>SIoux CENTER #199</b> William J Plantage Lyle Vanroekel Herlan Schut	<b>ELKADER #106</b> Gerald R Kramer	<b>DES MOINES #274</b> Virgil E Larsen Robert K Moore Thomas Heston	<b>TAMA #701</b> Dean Whitebreast Lawrence G Richter Jr	<b>SIoux CITY #697</b> Lamoyne A Christiansen	
	<b>COLUMBUS JCT. #100</b> Warren L McConahay	<b>MASON CITY #101</b> Donald Sampson Randal A Flaherty	<b>CHURDAN #198</b> Alan L Sorenson David D Sabus	<b>DES MOINES #274</b> Virgil E Larsen Robert K Moore Thomas Heston	<b>DOWS #523</b> Orville H Alverson Galyn Cross	<b>LAWTON #718</b> James C Sparr Robert J Howard	
	<b>MASON CITY #101</b> Donald Sampson Randal A Flaherty	<b>ROCK RAPIDS #103</b> Leonard D Berg Robert Vandekop	<b>SIoux CENTER #199</b> William J Plantage Lyle Vanroekel Herlan Schut	<b>ELKADER #106</b> Gerald R Kramer	<b>CASCADE #528</b> Alan G Dunn Herbert A Quint David G Gavin	<b>NEVINVILLE #719</b> Chris Prescott	
	<b>ROCK RAPIDS #103</b> Leonard D Berg Robert Vandekop	<b>SIoux CENTER #199</b> William J Plantage Lyle Vanroekel Herlan Schut	<b>ELKADER #106</b> Gerald R Kramer	<b>DES MOINES #274</b> Virgil E Larsen Robert K Moore Thomas Heston	<b>OXFORD #537</b> Ted Goodell William H Wehrle Dennis L Crow	<b>CORALVILLE #722</b> Gary G Gilbertson Donald J Slattery	









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

**Monday, August 11, 2025**

**Veterans Day at the Iowa State Fair**

**Veterans' Parade**

**Staging time: 7:00 – 10:30 am**

**Parade: 11:00 am**

**Information & Registration Instructions**  
**Registration Deadline is July 11, 2025**

Walk for Veterans: Department Commander Brian Ring, Sr will lead American Legion family members and friends in a Walk for Veterans.

The American Legion Walk for Veterans will be during the Veterans Parade at the Iowa State Fair on August 11, 2025, at the Iowa State Fairgrounds. The parade begins at 11:00 am and participants are asked to be in the staging area before 10:30 am.

All participants must register (free registration) with The American Legion of Iowa before July 19, 2024. All walk participants must wear The American Legion Walk for Veterans shirt. The cost of a Walk for Veterans shirt is \$20.00. Shirts from previous years may be worn. All parade participants will receive free entry into the Iowa State Fair after the parade. Parking is not included.



**Veterans Parade Entries:** If your Post, Unit, Squadron, or Chapter is planning to enter a color guard, float, vehicle, trailer, motorcycle, or other entry; you must register directly with the Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs.

**Who should walk:** Members of The American Legion Family: The American Legion, the American Legion Auxiliary, and Sons of The American Legion are encouraged to participate. We also invite anyone to join us who supports veterans and The American Legion.

**Registration Forms, Information and Updates:** Information, instructions, and forms are available on our website or request from the Department office. For more information, please contact The American Legion of Iowa by phone at 800-365-8387, by email at [teresa@ialegion.org](mailto:teresa@ialegion.org) or view online at [www.ialegion.org](http://www.ialegion.org).



**National Conference New Orleans,**  
supper with President Velinda prior, Vice President Kim Dixon,  
Girls State Director Bev Copple, Judy and Wilma Ring



**Washington Conference,**  
speaking with Representative Randy Feenstra



**Military Ball at Post 298 Marion Ia., standing with Retired Navy Chief Mike Lines and Deb Lines members of Post 141 Glenwood.**



### **AMERICAN LEGION TAMA's Post**

A Big Thank You to Iowa Premium Beef!

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Iowa Premium Beef for their generous donation to the Tama American Legion. Their support will help send seven outstanding young men to the American Legion of Iowa Boys State this summer.

Boys State is a prestigious six-day immersive civics camp, offering hands-on experiences in government operations and civic leadership. Through the LEADS curriculum—Learn, Engage, Accept, Do & Share—participants are inspired to lead, take initiative, and make a difference in their communities.

Thanks to Iowa Premium Beef, these students will gain invaluable leadership skills and create memories that will last a lifetime.