



THE AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF IOWA

IOWA LEGIONNAIRE &

Auxiliary Communiqué

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

2022 Department Oratorical Contest

The Department of Iowa's High School Oratorical Contest was held Sunday, February 13, 2022, the last day of Mid-Winter Conference. Three outstanding contestants advanced from the local post to main stage at the Department Final in front of a full room and panel of 5 judges. Each contestant gave a prepared and then was assigned a 3-5-minute topic based on the US Constitution.

First place was awarded to Olivia Scott of Hiawatha, Iowa. Olivia is a Senior at John F. Kennedy High School. The title of her prepared oration is *Justice Delayed is Justice Denied* which focused on the 6th Amendment, the right to speedy and fair public trial. Olivia is the daughter of Rob and Sara Scott. She will compete in the National Oratorical Contest on April 22nd in Indianapolis for a chance to win a large scholarship of \$25,000 and the title of national champion. Olivia is sponsored by Hiawatha American Legion Post #735 in Hiawatha. Congratulations Olivia and best

of luck.

Runner up honors go to Joseph Junker, a Senior at Van Meter High School in Van Meter. Joseph is a resident of Waukee, Iowa and was sponsored by Van Meter American Legion Post #403. Third place finish went to Charlie Moeller, a Sophomore at MOC-Floyd Valley High School. Charlie is a resident of Orange City and was sponsored by Pressman-Kosters American Legion Post #329 in Orange City.

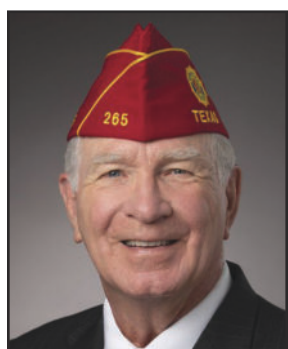
In the history of the National Oratorical Contest, Iowa has had 3 champions: Jennifer Demmon (1986), Max Miller (2000), and Patrick Junker (2019). Since the beginning of COVID-19, the National Oratorical Contest has been cancelled two years in a row. We are hoping for this contest to get back on track at the national level, giving contestants a chance to compete and win a sizeable



scholarship. Again, best of luck Olivia and congratulations on the Department title.

We wish to thank all the volunteers who have given their time from the local to Department contests. We are grateful for your involvement and hope you will consider participating again in the Fall. It isn't too late to begin the conversation in your community regarding this program and contest.

If you would like to follow along with National go to: www.legion.org/oratorical.



National Commander's Tour

Paul E. Dillard was elected national commander of The American Legion on Sept. 2, 2021, in Phoenix during the organization's 102nd national convention. His theme as national commander is "No Veteran Left Behind."

He first joined The American Legion in 1969.

A native Texan, Dillard graduated from Whitesboro High School in 1965 before joining the U.S. Navy and serving in Vietnam through four campaigns including the Tet offensive. He later received an honorable discharge as a radarman second class petty officer from the Navy Reserve before attending Grayson County Junior College and East Texas State University.

Dillard worked several years in the manufacturing business as an engineer, plant manager and director of manufacturing in Tennessee. Upon returning to Texas, he accepted a sales representative position with Sherman Foundry and became its airplane pilot. A career change was made when he and his wife, Donna, began their family and he entered the insurance business specializing in employee benefits and later forming Dillard & Gann Insurance.

As a paid-up-for-life member of American Legion Post 265 in Lake Kiowa, Texas, Dillard served as post commander, vice commander, adjutant, and judge advocate. He coached

American Legion Baseball for more than 10 years and served as his post's Boys State chairman.

Dillard served the 4th District as commander and vice commander and served the department as sergeant-at-arms, Membership & Organization chairman, National Security chairman, Uniformed Organization chairman, Board of Trustees chairman, and he served on the Finance Committee and the Long-Range Planning Committee. He was elected as Department of Texas commander in 2007.

On the national level, Dillard has served as Alternate National Executive Committeeman, consultant to the Insurance Committee, Distinguished Guest Committee, Children & Youth Committee, and Media and Communications Council. He has served as chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, chairman of the Veterans Employment & Education Commission and chairman of the Legislative Commission. He was elected as national vice commander in 2013.

Dillard married Donna in 1983. They have two sons, William and his wife Allison, and Jonathon and his wife Karri, and two grandsons Jarrett and Lukas. All are members of the American Legion Family. Donna has been an active and dedicated member of The American Legion Auxiliary for several years and has served in numerous positions of leadership at all levels of the organization, including department president in 2017-2018.

Continued on page 12

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

NONPROFIT ORG.
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WEBSTER CITY, IA

DEADLINES & DATES

March 12
Boys State Board Meeting – 10 AM HQ

March 15
American Legion Birthday

March 19
3rd District Conference – Tama
JSSP Department Match – Johnston

March 21-25
Spring Membership Tour

March 26
1st District Conference – Mt. Pleasant
7th District Conference – Glenwood

April 1
Baseball Rosters & Forms Due
Boys State Delegate Registrations Due
Boys State Post Refund Requests Due
Educator of the Year Due

April 2
8th District Conference – Gowrie

April 9
2nd District Conference – Clinton
5th District Conference – Centerville
9th District Conference – Onawa

April 15
Foundation Grant Applications Due
Post Data Reports Due
Good Friday

April 17
Easter Sunday

April 18
Tax Day

April 22-24
National Oratorical Contest – Indianapolis

April 23
4th District Conference – Manchester
6th District Conference – Gilbert

April 24
SAL Conference – Des Moines HQ

May 1-5
National Spring Meetings – Indianapolis

May 8
Mother's Day

May 13
Foundation Annual Meeting – 10 AM HQ

May 15
Summer Legionnaire Articles Due

May 21
Armed Forces Day

May 30
Memorial Day
Dept. Offices Closed

June 3
District Commander Orientation

June 3-5
Department Leadership School – Des Moines

June 15
Consolidated Post Reports Due
Legionnaire of the Year Nominations Due
National Convention Registration Due



The American Legion, Department of Iowa
 Mailing: 720 Lyon St., Des Moines, IA 50309
 Website: www.ialegion.org
 Phone: (800) 365-8387 • (515) 282-5068 • Fax: (515) 282-7583

American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Iowa
 Website: www.iowaala.org
 Phone: (515) 282-7987 • Fax: (515) 282-7583

Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Iowa
 Website: www.ialegion.org/sal
 Phone: (800-365-8387) • (515) 282-5068 • Fax: (515) 282-7583

2021-2022 American Legion Department Officers

Commander
 Robert Waugh Libertyville commander@ialegion.org

Vice Commanders
 Dick Hogan Cedar Rapids dehogan@earthlink.net
 Dan Boberg Fayette danboberg@hotmail.com
 Randy Johnson Deep River johnsonr17696@gmail.com
 Don Swan Urbandale donaldswan@gmail.com
 Tom Ryan Wesley tprsr1951@hotmail.com

Adjutant
 John A. Derner Granger john@ialegion.org

Service Officer
 Shane Pankonen Grimes shane.pankonen@va.gov

Finance Officer
 Ken Danilson Woodward kendanilson@gmail.com

Judge Advocate
 Dwight Dinkla Panora ddinkla@iowabar.org

Historian
 Vacant

Chaplain
 Dan McClure Washington no email listed

Sergeant-At-Arms
 Steve Colcord West Branch s.colcord@yahoo.com

National Executive Committeeman
 Dennis Soppe West Union nec@ialegion.org

Alternate National Executive Committeeman
 Ken Rochholz Walcott anec@ialegion.org

Past Department Commanders
 Mike Etzel Marion dimikey@hotmail.com
 J. Scott Moline Urbandale smoline@purdueglobal.edu
 Jim Kessler Lake Park jmkessler71@gmail.com

2021-2022 District Commanders

1st Samuel Johnson Washington
 firstdistrict@ialegion.org
2nd Jerry Becker Dyersville
 seconddistrict@ialegion.org
3rd Jeff Large Tama
 thirddistrict@ialegion.org
4th Fritz Kies Jesup
 fourthdistrict@ialegion.org
5th Samuel Blumer Centerville
 fifthdistrict@ialegion.org
6th Jennifer Monserud Gilbert
 sixthdistrict@ialegion.org
7th Amy Muse Glenwood
 seventhdistrict@ialegion.org
8th Ken Fields Gowrie
 eighthdistrict@ialegion.org
9th David Honse Rock Valley
 ninthdistrict@ialegion.org

Department Service Office

Mail: 561 Federal Building, 210 Walnut St., Des Moines, IA 50309
 Phone: (800) 944-2039 • (515) 323-7532 • Fax: 515-323-7401

Claims Representatives

Michele Lammers Melissa Kauzlarich
 Heather Owens Shane Pankonen

Department Headquarters Staff Directory

Adjutant John Derner john@ialegion.org
Membership Clerk Ann Haack ann@ialegion.org
Programs Director Ryan Kowlessar ryan@ialegion.org
Business Manager Teresa Shaw teresa@ialegion.org
General Information info@ialegion.org

Auxiliary Department Staff Directory

Executive Director
 Crystal Wright alasectreas@ialegion.org
Membership
 Jeannie McKeever alamembership@ialegion.org
Accounting
 Cami Spooner

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Department Commander Robert "Bob" Waugh

Mid-Winter was full of good training sessions and so much information received from the committees and general sessions. As usual, there was much to discuss and learn around the hospitality rooms and tables. So, everyone that attended Mid-Winter, I want to thank you for your "Individual Obligation to the Community, State and Nation."

My year is flying by so fast. I'm 7 months into my year as your Dept. Commander and it has been very rewarding, meeting many new faces and seeing some great things developing at many posts. As I visit the posts, I do my best to remember to "INCULCATE". It's the posts that never send a representative to a District Conference, Mid-Winter or State Convention that I need to reach out to. I'm preaching to the choir at these events because they made the commitment to attend and doing the things we need to do for "MEMBERSHIP".

Membership is everyone's responsibility and needs to be taken seriously because it is serious. Without it we are no longer a functioning organization. We are doing well in the national standings, but we can do better.

We've ranged from 13th, early in Nov., and have been in 2nd a couple of times lately. As of Feb. 6th, we are in 4th and only .51% out of 1st place. That equates to less than 200 members, very doable. We have about 5152 members that have not renewed and if each individual post would take pride in doing that and show they value their members we would be nearly at goal. There are 729's still out there that need a post plus many veterans who need to become members. I thank the posts that have made 100% and I'm asking the remaining ones to put forth the extra "EFFORT and PRIDE" to reach that goal. Reach out to your District Officers for assistance, they are there to help.

If we put the "EFFORT and PRIDE" into this, we can make the national challenge of 103% in membership with 90% retention. We are at 86.6% of retention. To me there is "NO REASON, ONLY EXCUSES". Enough on my "INCULCATING".

It has been a great pleasure to visit posts around the state to see the good things they're doing. I was honored to attend the Victor Post in Dec. for the presentation of several Quilts of Valor and the individual reading of the 5th Grade Flag Essay. I think there was well over 120 people in attendance and was a wonderful evening. On Feb. 5, I had the honor of presenting a Sons of the American Legion Charter to the newly formed Squadron at the Manly Post. It truly was a wonderful day for the post, and I loved the enthusiasm that was visible that day. It was well attended and had a room full. I finished the day with a visit to Williamson Post #719 for their fundraiser for the Honor Flight. A long day, but well worth while!

I was fortunate to attend 2 of the 3 Area Oratorical Contests, Van Meter and Carroll, impossible to make 2 on the same day as scheduled. I heard 6 outstanding speeches and they are all winners in my mind. If you didn't make it to Mid-Winter on Sunday morning for the finals of the Oratorical Contest, you missed one of our great youth programs and a good education on the Constitution.

I know I've met several legionnaires in my travels and have been asked when I will visit their Post. If you have an event coming up or would just like a visit at your Post, please let Ann in Headquarters know and if my schedule fits, I would love to come and visit.



Department Adjutant John A. Derner

We have just completed a successful Mid-Winter Conference. I would like to thank all our attendees, our presenters, guest speakers, volunteers, and staff members for making this a great event.

I would like to give a special thanks to our first-ever conference sponsor, BDI Signs, Inc. from Grimes, Iowa (www.bdisigns.com). The American Legion of Iowa and American Legion of Iowa Boys State have partnered with BDI for more than 20 years and we are grateful for their continued support of our programs and events.

Our attendance for Mid-Winter more than doubled from last year and we came close to reaching our pre-COVID numbers for attendance.

Our blood drive had 23 registered donors, 19 eligible donors, and 22 units collected. That is up to 66 lives saved or sustained! We had 7 first time donors and 3 donors with milestone celebrations. Steve McFarlane and I both hit the 2 Galloneer level and Perry Green hit the 13 Galloneer level. Thank you to all our donors.

I would also like to thank fellow Legionnaire and Commandant of the Iowa Veterans Home, Matthew Peterson, for his address and for providing valuable information to attendees about the Iowa Veterans Home.

Attendees were also treated to a visit from crew members of the USS Iowa (SSN-797). Three crew members were in attendance throughout the weekend to provide information on the fourth U.S. Navy ship to be named after our great state.

Thank you to our vendors, the USS Iowa Commissioning Committee, the Iowa Veterans Home, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Legionnaires Insurance Trust (LIT). All provided attendees with valuable information.

The highlight of the weekend was the interactive training provided. Members in attendance learned about MYLegon.org, buddy checks, recruiting and retaining members, working with Reserves and National Guard units, communicating with members and the community, assimilating new members, and communicating to others why we are members of this great organization.

The weekend was capped off by our Department Oratorical Contest and remarks from our Girls Nation and Boys Nation Senators. I would like to thank our Training Committee for organizing such an outstanding event.

If you missed out on this year's event, be sure to make plans to attend next year. It is sure to be another great conference.

District and Department conferences provide a great opportunity to expand your knowledge and involvement in The American Legion. District conferences will occur in March and April and a schedule appears in this issue. Department Convention will be held July 8-10, 2022, at the Holiday Inn Airport in Des Moines.

My favorite aspect of all American Legion gatherings is the comradery. I have been a member for 28 years, and active beyond the post level for more than 25 of those years. Through my involvement with The American Legion, I have met some of the best friends I have ever known. I have friends across Iowa, the United States, and even the world as a result.

The members of The American Legion Family are my family. They have been with me through good times and bad times. If you are not active in The American Legion, you are truly depriving yourself of a great experience. Legionnaires are some of the best people I know.

Take a chance and attend the next conference or convention. If you don't, you are missing out on much more than just a great conference. You are missing out on a great life experience.



National Executive Committeeman Dennis Soppe

Greetings Iowa Legionnaires,
Hoping everyone is in good health and surviving this cold winter. To all

District Commanders and Vice Commanders – keep up the good work.

A few weeks ago, a group of Legionnaires went to the Capital and talked with our Legislators. Your Iowa Legion had some resolutions that we wanted them to know about. They are Veterans property tax exemption, Veterans treatment courts, more money for training of our VSO, and funds for the

USS Iowa 797. Several of us were able to sit in on the subcommittee hearing regarding the USS Iowa. We were able to have input as they discussed the bill. I want to thank Nick Lanning, of Advocacy Strategies, for making this possible. If you go to www.ialegon.org/legislative you will be able to read the bills.

Mid-Winter is over, and I hope you all had a chance to participate. Adjutant John and his staff did a great job putting this together. We need to thank them for all they do.

National Commander Dillard will be visiting Iowa March 21-25th. We need to make sure we have great representation at all the Posts we visit. Membership Chair Randy Johnson is hard at work arranging his trip.

Again, this year, we will not be having our Washington

Conference. If you go to the National American Legion Website, under Legislation, you will be able to view the Resolutions that the American Legion would like to have congress approve. Be sure to let your congressional people know our views.

Leading candidate Daniel Seehafer, of Wisconsin, was not able to participate with our Mid-Winter Conference due to a family death. We offer our sincere condolences and prayers for the family.

Finally, I want to say Welcome Back Alt NEC Ken Rocholz who has been on sick call for a while and is recovering nicely. We are both looking forward to Spring Conferences.

**Until we meet again, For God and Country,
Dennis Soppe**



Department Chaplain Dr. Dan McClure

Greetings Friends,

Here's a thought to ponder. We have gone from the "greatest generation" to the most divided generation in just a few short years. We have always had rivalries such as in sports, states, cars etc., but those rivalries usually were worked out in some head-to-head contest with a winner that was only temporary, but today we don't seem to work things out in contests or otherwise and our winners act as though they are permanent and have actually proven some point.

We now define words not with a dictionary but usage. An example would be "I seen that coming" which is a violation of simple English rules but now acceptable, children are taught to print but not to use cursive, math is process not answers, law is right not legal, and the list goes on. Logic is less and less employed and reaction to any situation is input for an opinion even though the opinion has few or no facts for its forming. Laws of nature are ignored; dire consequences are predicted without valid research and then publicly declared.

Information is no longer received or disseminated though books and honest study but are the content of social media and so-called apps. I personally, would not trust the rambling of an actor, a celebrity nor any other famous person to provide me with

medical information, nor future events, or motives of others. Why are we as sheepish in our daily lives as to accept what we know isn't true as fact without some question?

Remember when we used to hear folks say that we need to go back to the good old days. Days when a person's word was their bond, days when polite was normal, days when we discussed not argued, back to the days when we all knew that tractors were green and yellow. Friends, those days are gone because we let go. How about we grab hold again? That my friend is character and God-honoring. That is the United States not what we profess today.

**God Bless,
Chaplain Dan**



Department Service Officer Shane Pankonen

Emergency Treatment and Care outside of VA Medical Centers/ Clinics

If the need for emergency care ever arises, it may not always be possible to get to a Veteran Administration (VA) Hospital or Clinic. If you believe your life is in danger if you do not seek immediate medical attention, call 911 or go to the nearest Emergency Department. When an emergency arises, and it is not feasibly possible to get to a VA medical center or other federal medical facilities, you do not need prior approval to call an ambulance or seek care at an Emergency Department. We as well as the VA

encourage all Veterans to seek immediate care in the event of an emergency.

You, a family member, or a staff member of the Hospital from which you have been admitted should contact the nearest VA within 72 hours to inform them of your admission. Failure to report admission within 72 hours can possibly impact your eligibility for the VA to cover your medical costs. Emergency treatment is only covered until you can be safely transferred to a VA medical facility. If it would arise that the nearest VA facility could not accept your transfer of care, make sure that they have documented this in your chart.

To be eligible for Non-VA treatment, you must be first be enrolled in the VA healthcare system. Failure to report your admission within 72 hours will not automatically result in a denial of the emergency care claim, however, it may affect your eligibility to have your claim paid by the VA. If you refuse to be

transferred to a VA facility or federal facility, after your condition has been stabilized, you may be liable for the cost of care by staying at that facility.

For further information regarding this subject, please review the listed references or you may contact the American Legion Service Office and we will be glad to assist you. Also, I may be contacted at 515-323-7532 for questions regarding this benefit or any VA benefits.

Unauthorized Emergency Treatment (Service-connected): 38 United States Code (U.S.C.) 1728

Unauthorized Emergency Treatment (Nonservice-connected): 38 U.S.C. 1725

Authorized Emergency Treatment: 38 Code of Federal Regulation (CFR) 17.4020©

**Sincerely,
Department of Iowa's Service office**



Sons of The American Legion Detachment Commander Mike Monserud

We are halfway through the Membership year, and we are currently at 76%, with 72% renewal.

Unfortunately, we still have Squadrons that have not turned in any Membership. I still, after 2.5 years as Detachment Commander do not understand why nobody has renewed their membership in those Squadrons. Those members are now delinquent and not eligible for American Legion benefits, or any ability to apply for Foundation Grants. Let's get renewed and continue to lead to

Legion Family.

If you are a male descendant of a Veteran, then you are eligible to join the Sons of The American Legion. If you do not have a Squadron near you, you may join another one close by and therefore you are supporting the organization. There are Iowa Veterans who rely on the American Legion to advocate for their Veteran Rights and Benefits, and without your membership, we cannot continue to do this. The Iowa American Legion is responsible for over \$90 million a year in benefits obtained for our Veterans.

What is your Veterans' story? Who are you signed up under? What would they say to you today if they were here, and you asked them about carrying on their legacy, and advocating for Veterans that may live in

your community?

If you do not have a Sons of The American Legion Squadron in your area, please feel free to contact me at mikemonserud@gmail.com, and I will help you in locating one close to you, or one you want to be a part of.

With Spring hopefully close by, get out into your communities and wear your Legion Family gear and show the community you are there for them, and proud to belong to that community. Get out from behind those walls and be seen, and take the message to everyone, that we are here, we support you, and we are the American Legion Family ready to help.

Commander's article continued from previous page

Don't forget the upcoming Spring Conferences. If I didn't make yours in the Fall, I should be there

this Spring. I'm looking forward to a busy schedule, please keep it that way, I want to assist you in any way I can!!!

Let us continue our pathway "FOR GOD and COUNTRY" and to "BUILD and FIGHT".

Commander Bob Waugh



1st District Commander Samuel Johnson

Well, Yee Haw the year is flying by! Where to start? The Oratorical contest for the district was a fun event to attend. Also, I never thought I would have trouble judging the 5th grade

flag essays but the creative minds of these kids in our district made it for a close competition. Both of these events will have finished by the time you get this paper. Congratulations to the winners from our district.

I would like to draw attention to a big event coming up, so big in fact, that if you don't pay attention, you may

get dysentery. Our yearly membership slide is upon us and it will take over like a wildfire destroying everything in its path. Our district goes from getting around 75-100 members a week to 1-5 members. So let's remember only You, First District, can prevent forest fires. Help your district commander and Smoky the Bear and keep getting those last few members to renew and help the district sparkle.

Another deadline that is approaching, March 31st, which is when the race to the top ends. That is a competition between every district commander in every department across the legion. The winner needs to get at least 100% of their membership goal by that target date. I need each of the 3562 members throughout the district to be renewed by 31 March.

Lastly our Spring Conference will be 26th of March in Mt. Pleasant. EVERYONE is invited, yes you, reading this right now. You are welcome to come, I encourage you to come! A MyLegion.org training will be conducted after the conference concludes.

I would like to express my gratitude for everyone that has helped make this a successful year, especially my Vice Commanders Jerry Bennett and Tom Hartsock, and for stepping up halfway through the year for Zone 3, Curt Goudy. Thank you, gentlemen, for making this the best year ever.

**Veterans Strengthening America,
Samuel Johnson**



2nd District Commander Jerry Becker

Greetings to all veterans from District Two.

It doesn't seem possible that here it is February and Mid-Winter is here and gone. Where has the time gone?

In January I attended the District Oratorical Contest in Dewitt. What a great job the two constants did. It was very interesting, and I have to say I learned a few things. However out of 6 counties we only had two contestants. I would like to encourage those counties that did not have a contestant this year to encourage you to work at getting someone next year. What a

great opportunity for young students to learn more about the constitution. They have so much to gain and a great chance to earn scholarships. Also went to the area contest as well, once again only two contestants.

I had a great time at Mid-Winter in Des Moines, chance to see so many people again. I want to congratulate Olivia Scott from District Two for winning the state oratorical contest and now having the opportunity to go on to national. We want to wish her well. Olivia is from Hiawatha. She attends Kennedy High School in Cedar Rapids and was sponsored by Legion Post #735 Hiawatha, Iowa.

Several reminders for everyone, Spring conference will be held at Wild Rose casino in Clinton, Iowa April 8 & 9 if you have not registered, please do right away. Dept. Convention will be at the Des Moines Airport

Holiday Inn and convention center July 7-10, 2022.

State Handicap Bowling Tournament is being held at Hurricane Lanes in Dyersville. March 5&6, 12&13, 19&20, 2022.

Don't forget your membership renewals. They need to be done so members don't lose their continuous years. Remember if you have someone who did not renew in 2020 and you get them to renew this year they will get back there continuous years only losing one year.

I want to say thank you to all those that came to Mid-Winter and helped at the District 2 hospitality room Saturday night.

**NO VETERAN LEFT BEHIND,
JERRY BECKER**



3rd District Commander Jeff Large

Greetings Legionnaires,

If you were not present at Mid-Winter, you missed a great weekend. So much can get

accomplished for your post at these gatherings. This is your posts opportunity to get educated on programs sponsored by the American Legion, network ideas and strategies, or simply represent your corner of the state. July 7th-10th is your next chance to join us at Convention. District Conference is right around the corner. March 19th, Tama Post #73 will be playing host and look forward to seeing you the 18th for their hospitality

event.

We are on the back hill side of Winter and what a seemingly long one it's been. Be mindful of our members who aren't willing or able to leave their homes. A cold winter combined with the risks of public health, many members are becoming more and more enclosed. A simple letter or phone call could be the lift they need to press on. Buddy Checks!

Membership is still of the utmost importance. Your memberships ensure there is a Legion tomorrow. Tomorrow's Legion will need its leadership. We are calling on all current Post Commanders and Adjutants to consider expanding their leadership skills and knowledge to the District level. If you are the member our organization could benefit from, please forward any nominations for positions to

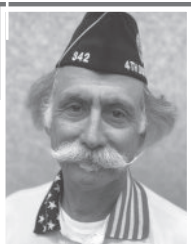
either myself or our Adjutant. We look forward to leadership!

Congratulations to our Flag Essay Finalists. 1st-Noah Hesson of Central Lutheran Vinson Post #57, 2nd-Ann Certin of Benton Comm. Atkinson Post #217, 3rd- Rylin Cross ENP Elem. Eldora Post #182.

I have had the best of times serving as your Commander and look forward to the few months I have left.

I can't wait to speak to as many of you as I can at the Department Convention.

**Jeff Large USA
For God and Country**



4th District Commander Fritz Kies

Hello again to all of my fellow Legionnaires of Northeast Iowa.

I would like to begin by thanking the Manchester Post #45 for hosting the National Vice Commander tour in

November (I didn't get this in the last edition) and for hosting the Spring 4th District conference scheduled for Saturday April 23rd, so put it on your calendars now.

Thank you to all those posts participating in the Fifth

Grade Flag essay this year. Our District winners were: 1st place winner from Jesup Post #342 - Aylin Baldwin; 2nd place winner from Garnavillo Post #723 - Kai Brandt; and 3rd place winner from Cresco Post #135 - Aliyah Lidtke. This is a fun and educational/patriotic program that I personally enjoy doing, especially when I go to the school to present the awards to the winners, the kids just love it. If your post doesn't yet participate, please contact me, I'll be glad to help get you started for next year's contest.

Boys State is also another great program, reservations started online January 15th. Be sure to get your high school junior delegates registered.

If your post has had a change in the commander

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

As always, my thanks go out to all the post adjutants and membership chairs doing the "heavy lifting" in getting the memberships processed for 2022. We'll be starting on 2023 before you know it.

**'Nuff said,
Fritz Kies**



5th District Commander Samuel Blumer

Greetings 5th District Legionnaires and families,
First, I would like to congratulate, our own Randy Johnson, on his nomination for 2022-2023 Department Commander. I personally think Randy would make an excellent Department Commander.

May we all wish him the best.
We are at that time of year that membership slows to a crawl. We all are responsible for helping the Legion grow. Know a veteran that doesn't belong? Talk to them about joining. Know someone that hasn't renewed their dues? Get them to renew. Know someone that belongs, but is a 729? Talk to them about transferring to a local post. We have been on a steady decline, and we need to stop the slide. Important dates coming up:

March 15- American Legion Birthday; April 1- Baseball Rosters and player forms due, Boys State Registration due; March 21-25- National Commanders Tour; April 9- 5th District Conference, Centerville; April 24- SAL Spring Conference; June 3-5- Department Leadership School; June 15- Consolidated Post Reports due; July 7-10- Department Convention.

**For God and Country,
Samuel Blumer**



6th District Commander Jennifer Monserud

In 2021, Governor Kim Reynolds signed House File 847. It requires that all schools in Iowa "administer the pledge of allegiance in grades one through twelve each school

day. Each classroom in which the pledge of allegiance is recited pursuant to this subsection shall display the United States flag during the recitation."

In the Pella Community School District flags weren't available in each classroom, some students were saying the pledge of allegiance to a paper printout of the flag, one student recognized this as unacceptable and approached Post #89 for a solution.

In February, Post #89 presented 175 flags to the Pella Community School District, they also recognized the student that brought the problem to the post's attention.

These community projects keep the American Legion on the minds of the community. If your American Legion family disappeared, would your community be negatively impacted? I hope you are thinking YES! If you aren't sure, you have work to do! Making a positive impact on your community doesn't have to cost money. Gather your members, put on your Legion caps or Legion sweatshirt, and clean up a city park, sponsor a Scout troop, or provide Honor Guard services.

Veteran advocacy is only part of our mission, community service drives membership. Young

members want to participate in projects and be a part of their communities. Once members join, they need to be engaged and allowed to help where their talents and interests lie. Today's young families are active, and they want the most out of their time.

As veterans we served our country and as Legionnaires, we continue our service to our communities. I hope that each of you reading this has renewed your membership. If not, what are you waiting for? Please renew today and after you renew find a project near you and make your community sparkle!!

There are several openings for District officers for the upcoming year, if you are interested or know someone that is please contact us at sixthdistrict@ialegon.org.

**For God and Country,
Jennifer Monserud**



7th District Commander Amy Muse

"If you are taking care of the veteran, you're taking care of the veteran's family," said Randy Johnson when he announced his candidacy for Department Commander. In the

military, all pay and allowances, medical services, housing, exchange and commissary benefits, emergency relief, and other benefits are provided based on the eligibility of the service member and extended to the service member's family, for serving

America. Why is it a foreign concept that the veteran has also earned benefits that can help the entire family?

How many times have you heard a Drill Instructor or NCO say, "It isn't personal. It's just business"? Why does this saying also seem like such a foreign concept in Iowa? If your Veterans Service Office (VSO) is subpar, not only does the veteran miss out on benefits already earned, the entire family does not receive benefits that were already earned. Too many times in local government, veterans need to remember, "it isn't personal, it's just business". When VSOs go underfunded, the County misses out on Federal

Dollars stimulating the local economy.

A veteran seeking benefits and entitlements that were earned due to military service are not given out of the kindness of the American government. They were earned through military service. Too many times, veterans are treated like they are trying to "get something, for nothing". Let's continue to fight for Iowa's veterans and membership will take care of itself. The American Legion is an opportunity to serve if you only ask veterans to join!

**Respectfully,
Amy Muse**



8th District Commander Kenneth Fields

Ahoy 8th District Legionnaires, "Human experience shows that people, not organizations or management systems, get things done". Admiral Hyman G. Rickover

spoke an absolute truth that we in the American Legion know well, "to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state, and nation."

Kudos to Williams Post #633 winning the Robert W. Colflesh Trophy awarded to District in first place and

Post with the highest percentage of membership by Veterans Day. I asked Commander Derrick Greenfield of Post #633 how they had achieved 118% membership. Derrick said, "I realized that we had several former military persons helping with activities at our Post. I then found out, that no one had ever asked them to become members, so I signed them up!" My fellow Legionnaires, it is critical that we simply ask those around us if they would like to become members of the American Legion. Outstanding job Williams Post #633!

The 8th District was recognized at the Mid-Winter Conference for finishing in first place for membership

by Veterans Day. Currently over 90%, let's press on towards the prize and achieve together 100% membership and beyond.

8th District Spring Conference will be held on Saturday April 2nd at Post #431 Gowrie, IA. If you have not signed up for a MyLegion.org account, do, this resource has improved. Bring your tablet or computer for MyLegion.org training.

Correction: Post in Manilla, IA is Post #132 and not #442. My apologies for this error.

**Sincerely,
Kenneth Fields**



9th District Commander David Honse

Greetings to the Great 9th District,

As I am writing this Mid-Winter Conference is in the history books. It was a good time again this year with several good training sessions. If you

were not able to attend but are still interested in the training, the sessions are on the ialegon.org website. As our membership heads into the final stretch for the year our district has fallen to 8th place with only four posts at goal. I find this disheartening as the tools are so readily available to drive those numbers up. Most posts in our district and the department for that matter could reach goal by simply doing two things.

One, get ALL your renewals. Visit with your members

and ask their "why". A "why" is the reason that a member joined or continues to belong to a post. Then ask yourself is our post supporting that "why" for that individual? If not then possibly you have an opportunity to improve your post and their experience. Try to use the "why" to keep them involved. Involved members renew faster than uninvolved ones. Second, and this is big, get your 729's to transfer into your post. These members are already paid up and just need a nudge to be put on your posts roster. According to Randy Johnson the Department Membership Chair we currently have over 2000 paid 729's in the department. Our district is only 700 members from reaching goal. It can be done.

Commander Waugh has directed the District Commanders to pick two posts from each district to concentrate on helping reach goal. I am going to

further that by asking each of my vices to pick two from their respective areas of responsibility so that we can assist them in finding the numbers we need to finish strong. I have been very honored to be your Commander for the past two years and look forward to staying active in The American Legion in the future in whatever way I can. Spring conference is April 9 in Onawa at the Community Center. Be watching for the times to be published soon on our Facebook page. If you have not been to a conference in a while, please join us as we have changed the format to a quicker more relaxed style of getting business done. Lastly, always remember we were and still are the guardians of our country and what she stands for. The youth are our future.

**For God and Country,
David H. Honse**

THE AMERICAN LEGION OF IOWA		
Statement of Financial Position		
June 30, 2021		
	2021	2020
Assets		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$46,878	\$30,996
Restricted Cash	533,724	600,338
Certificates of Deposit - Restricted	160,531	159,791
Receivables		
Interest	42	185
Other	12,033	22,255
Prepaid Insurance	3,029	1,704
Prepaid Expenses	11,107	10,385
Land, at Cost	46,610	46,610
Buildings and Equipment, at Cost, Less Accumulated		
Depreciation of: 2021 - \$553,711 and 2020 - \$542,485	98,313	127,848
Total Assets	\$912,267	\$1,000,112
Liabilities		
Accounts Payable		
Trade	\$8,894	\$7,454
Due to Districts, Other Entities, and Other Funds	40,670	28,327
Other	64,244	62,116
Deferred Revenue	10,640	--
Accrued Expenses		
Compensated Absences	40,149	35,732
Loan Payable	--	78,785
Total Liabilities	164,597	212,414
Net Assets (Deficit)		
Unrestricted	474,737	495,043
Temporarily Restricted	272,933	292,655
Total Net Assets	747,670	787,698
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$912,267	\$1,000,112
Statement of Activities and Changes in Net Assets		
Year Ended June 30, 2021		
	2021	2020
Revenue		
Dues	\$561,385	\$596,156
Investment Income	598	2,180
Fundraising Income	\$196,380	\$195,779
Legion Insurance Trust	43,629	46,451
USAA Insurance	23,600	23,700
Other		
Contributions	4,417	303.673
PPP Loan Forgiveness	78,785	--
Miscellaneous	13,906	17,956
Total Revenue	922,700	1,185,895
Expenses		
Program Services		
Service Office	268,997	269,108
Meetings and Conventions	20,306	33,947
Commissions	57,486	55,474
Iowa Legionnaire	58,526	56,432
Department/National Convention Fund Expense	--	1,600
Building Projects Fund	18,848	17,342
Vets of Valor	5,291	30,067
Total Program Services	429,454	463,970
Fundraising	97,472	121,549
Supporting Services		
General Administration	435,802	434,405
Total Expenses	962,728	1,019,924
Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets	(40,028)	165,971
Transfer of Net Assets		
--	--	--
Net Assets - Beginning of Year	787,698	621,727
Net Assets - End of Year	\$747,670	\$787,698

AMERICAN LEGION BOYS STATE		
Statements of Financial Position		
September 30, 2021		
	2021	2020
Assets		
Assets		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$96,489	\$111,391
Prepaid Expense	3,567	2,772
Total Assets	\$100,056	\$114,163
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	\$3,368	\$ --
Scholarships Payable	2,750	2,875
Total Liabilities	6,118	2,875
Net Assets		
Unrestricted	83,738	111,288
Temporarily Restricted	10,200	--
Total Net Assets	93,938	111,288
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$100,056	\$114,163

Statements of Activities and Changes in Net Assets		
Years Ended September 30, 2021		
	2021	2020
Revenue		
Fees	\$56,000	\$ --
Donations	11,715	2,126
Sales - Special Merchandise	2,402	395
Miscellaneous	875	2,046
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	--	--
Total Revenue	70,992	4,567
Expenses		
Program Expenses		
Camp		
Mess	38,497	--
Camp Personnel	5,625	692
Supplies	3,913	--
Rent	22,917	493
Printing	209	45
Insurance	6,234	2,783
Directors and Speakers	28	232
Meeting Expense	2,023	927
Postage Expense	127	156
Photos and CDs	1,660	--
Scholarships and Awards	2,250	--
Bank Charges	32	32
Special Purchases	307	--
Miscellaneous	539	338
Total Program Expenses	84,361	5,698
Supporting Services		
Professionals Fees	3,981	4,499
Total Expenses	88,342	10,197
Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets	(17,350)	(5,630)
Net Asstets at Beginning of Year	111,288	116,918
Net Assets at End of Year	\$93,938	\$111,288

AMERICAN LEGION OF IOWA FOUNDATION		
Balance Sheets		
September 30, 2021		
	2021	2020
Assets		
Assets		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$117,720	\$82,816
Receivable - Rlated Party	--	500
Prepaid Expense	1,502	1,314
Investments	2,215,255	2,023,120
Investments - Rummel Trust	59,137	54,479
Investments - 40 & 8 Trust	58,227	53,641
Investments - Keith Baker Scholarship Fund	27,219	25,076
Total Assets	\$2,479,060	\$2,240,946
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Liabilities		
Payables		
Accounts Payable	\$4,957	\$7,818
Awards Payable	1,100	15,120
Scholarships Payable	39,750	36,125
Total Liabilities	45,807	59,063
Net Assets		
Unrestricted	2,288,670	2,048,687
Restricted	144,583	133,196
Total Net Assets	2,433,253	2,181,883
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$2,479,060	\$2,240,946
Statement of Activities and Changes in Net Assets		
Years Ended September 30, 2021		
	2021	2020
Revenues		
Contributions	\$36,461	\$30,083
Interest and Dividend Income	54,660	62,568
Gain on Sale of Investments	75,032	55,803
Scholarship and Award Expiration	17,645	8,450
Net Assets Released from Restriction	--	--
Total Revenues	183,798	156,904
Awards and Scholarships	100,565	87,115
Operating Expenses		
Trustee Fee	14,366	13,324
Audit and Income Tax Return	6,067	6,011
Insurance	1,649	1,392
Meeting Expense	436	442
Supplies	8,427	5,481
Total Operating Expenses	30,945	27,010
Change in Net Assets Before Unrealized Gain (Loss)	52,288	42,779
Net Unrealized Gain (Loss) on Investments	199,082	(15,873)
Change in Net Assets	251,370	26,906
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	2,181,883	2,154,977
Net Assets at End of Year	\$2,433,253	\$2,181,883

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

IRS Form 990

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



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

DEPARTMENT OF IOWA

Auxiliary Communique

SERVING VETERANS, THEIR FAMILIES AND THEIR COMMUNITIES



SPRING 2022

PAGE 7

Auxiliary President Doris Jackson



Hello American Legion Auxiliary Family! Has it been cold enough for everyone? I will be extremely happy when Spring arrives and warmer weather! The last four months have been challenging at times, but I know God is in control. November 4th, I was at the Williamson Post, northeast of Prescott for an Auxiliary meeting. I was very pleased with the attendance that evening. They had a joint session to start and then split up into Legion, Auxiliary and SAL meetings followed by refreshments. Thank you, for the invite! On November 13th, Liberty Center had a dedication of their new building, and I was unable to attend but sent warm wishes of their accomplishment and continued growth in membership. I was attending the annual Legion Feed of my own Post in Lorimor. There was a large attendance, and the Legion, SAL and Auxiliary was presented. The Membership Rally was held in Van Meter on November 20th. We had a great turnout! ALA Membership Chairman Alida Kolthoff and Committee member Rosemary Lancaster had an excellent presentation. Leading the Auxiliary in membership turn-ins was 9th District. Then, the next thing I know Bobby was having a CT scan for a possible appendicitis. Fortunately, he didn't have appendicitis, but it showed a tumor in the bladder. So, November was full of Specialist appointments and surgery November 22. Two cancerous tumors were removed. We celebrated Thanksgiving late, but it was a wonderful day, I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving!

December was a quiet month. We attended the American Legion Christmas Party at Department Headquarters on December 3rd. We didn't stay long

as Bobby was still recuperating from surgery but was so nice to be able to get together with our American Legion Family for just a little while and wish all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. December 4th, Cleghorn celebrated their 100th Anniversary. I sent greeting and congratulations on their achievement and for many more years of continued service to our veterans, military, and their families. December 7th, Farley held their annual Christmas party that Tuesday evening. I sent wishes of a Merry Christmas to all! And Maxwell had their annual Dinner December 9th, I spoke with Linda and explained the situation and sent a letter of acknowledgement and well-wishes for many continued years of service to our organization.

When January rolls around we always think of Legislative Day. Several of us traveled to the Capital that cold January 19th morning. My van was kept busy transporting members to the Capital and back. My husband, Bobby was the chauffeur. Our ALA Legislative Chairman Judy Ring was able to attend and there is a picture of her with the group of Legion members who presented their priorities for our veterans to our representatives.

We are still leading the Nation in Membership! Way to go, Iowa! But this is not an easy task! It takes continued phone calls, emails, visits to units, text messages, etc. to stay in the lead. Remember if we can't keep our organization strong with members, who will be here to care for our veterans in the future? I am very pleased that all the Districts are at 86% or above. Great job, Auxiliary!

Mid-Winter Conference has now come and gone. So much planning and it is over in a blink of an eye. It was a weekend to remember! The Auxiliary was honored to have National Central Division Vice President Denise Delaney-Wroten in our presence. This year following through with my theme and symbols we had Boot Camp 101 with Breakout Sessions, Saturday afternoon. Different classes were held: Quilts of Valor, ALA MIS computer training, Line Dancing and Pound classes

for PT, and speakers in the North Ballroom. Subjects covered were the VA hospitals and their needs list, Community Based Outreach Centers, ALA Branding, Governing Documents, Parliamentary Procedures, Mission Training, An Americanism Sing-along, Impact Reports and ALA Bingo. I would like to thank everyone presenting programs for Boot Camp 101. I hope everyone in attendance was able to take information home and pass on to your Units.

Central Division Mission Training was held in Indianapolis on February 19th and the ALA van was full of eager participants. Our Department Honorary Junior President Emma Schnurstein attended the Junior meeting, while Mary Sypherd, Sue Spilman, Angie Schnurstein and I enjoyed the Mission Training session. I'm sure everyone will have some information taken from the meeting to share with their Units and Districts.

We look forward to our National President Kathy Daudistal of Kentucky visiting us April 27 – May 1, 2022. We will travel from Omaha to Keokuk and up to Bellevue. Her itinerary will be on the website as it gets finalized so you can visit her if she is in your area. Thank you to everyone who is supporting my theme and projects this year. Also, to everyone that is supporting our chairman and committees and their projects. Always keep in mind that "We are Stepping into the Next Century While Remembering the Past". May God Bless you and May God Bless America!



Membership Round-Up

Congratulations to the entire Department of Iowa for their wonderful work in Membership thus far this year. Iowa has been NUMBER 1 the Nation for Membership turned in for 7 weeks! Amazing!

Although we are doing well we still have a long way to go. As the weather is starting to turn nice, we are starting to plan for Spring conferences and the wonderful times that we are about to have with our Auxiliary Family, reach out to those members who have not renewed their membership. Think about your reason 'Why' and how you can use that to inspire those around you.

I want to give a shout-out to the approximately 250 Units that reached the goal of 75% membership turned in by December 7th. Also, CONGRATULATIONS to the 77 Units that have reached 100% of their membership goal!

Keep up the wonderful work!

Alida Kolthoff
Membership Chairman

ALAMIS for 2023

As has been shared previously, new user rates for ALAMIS access will be going into effect in 2023. Please note that we will not be charging these rates until January 2023 at the National level. This means you will receive invoices for your ALAMIS from Department starting August 1st that will be due October 20th. This way we can have all funds available for the National bill for ALAMIS by January 1st.

The new fee structure will be:

Unit Full Access (i.e. can pay dues) - \$20.00 per user—This is new, we can start adding Units that want to do this starting July 2022. You will need to notify Department for a change in access.

Unit Write Access - \$15.00 per user

Unit View - \$10.00 per user (This remains the same)

Units can have up to 2 users

Again, this will go into effect starting August 1st, 2022, and must be paid by October 20th. You will receive an invoice for your normal \$10 VIEW ONLY access, if you want to get Write Access or Full Access, we will need you to pay accordingly, and you can write your information or type of access on your invoice. I will include this information in multiple more notifications and on the invoices themselves.

Update! Units Paying Dues Pilot Program:

The units paying dues pilot program has been going very well! We will open up the option for any unit to have Unit Full access (with department approval) starting in July 2022 when we open the billing for the 2023 membership year. Unlike other ALAMIS access levels, these members requesting Unit Full access will be required to attend a virtual training with ALA NHQ membership staff. More information on this access will be sent out to departments in late spring. Any unit signed up for Unit Full access starting in July 2022 will not be charged for their access until January 2023 to give units an opportunity to "test drive" this access to see if they want to continue using it.

DO IT *for*
Your Community

Auxiliary Emergency Fund

Auxiliary Emergency Fund, also known as AEF, is members helping members. Whether it's due to a natural disaster or a financial hardship; a member with the current year's dues and the previous two years' dues paid may be eligible. Please check the National American Legion Auxiliary website for more details and applications. Be sure that you meet all the criteria and submit the application as well as all required paperwork when submitting your application. How are you doing with the AEF challenge? Have you sent any donations in? I understand some members are donating money every month, some are keeping track and donating it "all" at the end, and some are donating what they can. However, you or your unit has decided to do it; THANK YOU for participating. Remember that every cent counts!! I am excited to see how well members of Iowa are doing!! I would like to change the due date for the challenge so that it is included in your impact reports and narratives. Please spread the word to every member. I'm adding another challenge to promote end of year reporting. There will be a surprise to the district with the most narratives sent to me for AEF. There will also be a surprise to the district that sends the highest combined donation total in. Ask your members to turn in their donations prior to completing your impact reports and narratives. The deadline for impact reports to County President is April 30, 2022. Narratives are due to me by April 30, 2022, with the correct completed cover sheet. I am asking that you send me the amount of your donation either via snail mail or email. I would rather get a note from every member than no note. This will be the true test to see who reads the articles. Michelle Copple Ourbusymom1400@aol.com 1400 280th St, Salix, IA 51052

Iowa American Legion Auxiliary Girls State Submitted by Mary Andersen, Director

So far during this 2021-2022 membership year, the Girls State Board has worked on the following:

1. Fall Board Meeting

We met and discussed what to retain our virtual session and how to plan and move forward for an in-person session in June of 2022.

2. The development of a staff application.

3. More videos and accessible online tutorials for staff, citizens, and members.

Look for these coming to social media and websites. If you have suggestions for future videos, please submit your ideas to us!

4. Facility discussions

Drake may or may not have specific requirements for physical distancing, and we will need to keep those in mind when scheduling and reserving our spaces for June. We may not be able to use the spaces we have in the past. Summer renovations may also play a part in our spaces. Inauguration requires the space for the most people, which will need the most consideration.

5. Capitol trip

We will return to the Capitol with our return to Des Moines! We are working on schedule, and a possible overlap in commute, as bussing costs have increased significantly since our last trip in 2019.

6. Celebrating our program

Because we were unable to celebrate our 75th session in person, we want to honor our premier program and the American Legion Family, but specifically, our American Legion Auxiliary members and our alumnae of the Iowa Girls State citizens and staff. We want to do this while still meeting any COVID protocol that may be in place at Drake University, celebrating the rich depth of the history and participants of our program, and allowing as many who wish to participate the opportunity to do so.

7. Midwinter Silent Auction was a success.

8. Winter Board Meeting

Our Girls State board met virtually prior to the Midwinter conference.

9. Important Dates

Girls State Session: June 19-24, 2022; Drake University

Citizen registration forms are online! Due date: March 31

Refund requests due: April 30

10. Questions?

Please feel free to contact anyone on our Girls State board, or Jeannie in the Department Office is extremely knowledgeable about the forms you need to submit!

Department Office: 515-282-7987

Jeannie McKeever or Crystal Wright

Board Members:

Mary Andersen, Director

Doris Jackson, Department President

Crystal Wright, Department Executive Officer

Ann Rehbein

Bev Copple

Kim Dixon

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation

Joyce Elliott

Service to Veterans Mary Sypherd

The Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation program enhances the lives our veterans, military and their families. Volunteer at a VA facility, stand downs, Creative Arts and Christmas Gift Shops are many ways to help. Keep track of your hours and report them to you Unit chairperson.

Monetary donations need to go through the Department, you just need to mark where you would like it to go.

Hopefully we will be allowed to visit some of the facilities with year.

Your Unit report is due to Joyce by June 1, 2022, remember to include the cover sheet, if yours is selected to go to National.

Your hour sheets need to go to Mary by April 30, 2022.

Reports of what your Unit has done are due to me by April 30, 2022.

Please check the Programs Action Plan, and you may direct your questions to myself or Mary.

Greetings From Your Nominating Committee:

Your Department Nominating Committee is responsible for finding Auxiliary members to run for Department Offices. As you might expect, sometimes this is not an easy task. Our Department is very fortunate to have a wealth of knowledge in our Past Department Presidents and officers. If you have any questions about what running for a Department office entails, you can ask any one of those past officers or check the blue book for responsibilities. Our committee knows that sometimes announcing you want to run for office can be a little intimidating so we have devised a form you can fill out and mail or hand deliver to the nominating committee chairman. The form is also available from any member of the committee.

Kim Dixon, Nominating Committee Chair

Mary Bryan, Committee Member

Paige Copple, Committee Member

PUBLIC RELATIONS

As we continue our journey of "Stepping Into the Next Century, While Remembering the Past", Public Relations is simply spreading the word of our meetings, current events, accomplishments, and our organization. Remember to project ourselves in the most positive light.

The vehicle you choose is entirely up to you. Whether sending out newsletters via the postal service or sending them electronically, newsletters can be a very useful tool for your members.

Newspapers, Facebook, Instagram are other powerful sources.

If you were able to attend Mid-Winter hopefully you picked up some great information at the Programs Fair.

The American Legion has issued a new public relations tool kit after ten years. Packed with useful and up-to-date information. It is available on The American Legion website for download.

Have you or someone from your unit considered joining (TALMA) The American Legion Media Alliance? It is open to anyone in the American Legion Family who handles PR. Cost per year is \$15. What a great source of information & for tips and tricks. They have a Facebook page, as well as virtual training available every other month.

I have heard from some units on their activities for 2021-2022. Please don't forget your end of year reporting. Please include your highest quality images (.jpeg). These images can be emailed to me at jancarl7@msn.com. I would like to include these images with my year end report to Central Division.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Jan Carlton

ALA Public Relations Chair, 2021-22

107 Blondeau St., #1

Keokuk, IA 52632

Cell (319) 795-8371

Junior Camp 2022

The Department of Iowa Junior Camp 2022 will be held from August 7th-12th at the Newton Christian Conference Center in Newton, IA. Registration will be held on Sunday the 7th from 6:00-6:30 pm, followed by a movie night. Throughout the week we will have many fun activities including crafts, recreation, swimming, and presentations. The cost for camp is \$250 and includes 3 meals and a snack per day. Camp is open to Junior members ages 8-18. The Department Junior Conference will be held on the final day of camp, Friday the 12th, at the conference center. You can register your Junior for camp by going to www.iowaala.org under the forms tab. Checks for camp must be mailed to the Department office. We will hold a fundraiser for camp at the Department Convention in July called "What's in the Bag!?" We are asking for donations of purses, totes, briefcases, duffel bags, and any other kind of usable bag. Please fill the bags with items and tag the bag with a brief description of what's inside without giving it away. The idea is for members to bid on the bags in silent auction form without them knowing what is inside the bags. Members will have to bid based on what they think may be inside, but it's a surprise! This fundraiser will be open to all Legion, Auxiliary, Sons, Riders, and Junior members. Please bring bag donations to Mid-Winter Convention or Department Convention and give to Camp Director Alice Klinkhammer. You can contact Alice with questions at (563) 564-3908 or klinkhammer8819@gmail.com.

Chaplain's Corner

"Greater love hath no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends." (John 15:13)

This is one of President Doris favorite scripture verses. This verse embodies all of our American Legion Family. By working our mission each of you are following in Jesus footsteps, with countless hours 'laying down' your life to help others. God must be smiling at you and will reward you greatly.

The year has been another rough one with the lingering virus around us, but you have let our Good Shepherd guide you through the storms and found ways to keep on caring for our veterans, their families, our youth, and our community. The more challenges that life brings us the more each of you have grown stronger, and perhaps you have come to realize that with God by your side all things are possible. Never give up, have patience! Life goes better if we are gracious, always be thankful, begin and end each day thanking our Lord for being there for you in all you do.

As you step into spring refresh yourselves with each new awakening in nature you see. Let spring bring new beginnings for you, plant new seeds, grow new friends, nourish new ideas, make new projects a reality. Let your passion and great love be contagious and spread to others. By your faith in God and your actions you will be helping the world to be a better

place for all God's family. Pray each day for that special peace, that place of green pastures and tranquil waters for all mankind. And remember on the 7th day, God stopped to rest. You must take your day of rest as well to be reenergized and refreshed. Stop to smell the roses, give a smile to cheer someone and add music to your life.

*Remember to send the names of all the deceased members from your unit to the Department. They will be remembered in our Memorial Ceremony at Department Convention in July.

Each year the Chaplain assembles a book of prayers and inspirations to give to our President. *Please send me your favorite prayers and quotes, scripture verses or an inspirational story that touches your heart so that I may put them in the book for President Doris. You may email them to me at marymclaughlin@iowatelecom.net

Or mail to me: Mary Jo McLaughlin, 739 South S Avenue, Nevada, Iowa 50201

May God spread his protecting wings over all our military and keep them safe, over all our Legion family and this country that we love. Amen.

May your spring 'be runneth' over with blessings from God!

Mary Jo McLaughlin
Chaplain

Spring District Conferences

- 1st District Spring Conference- March 26th -Mount Pleasant Veterans Hall
- 2nd District Spring Conference- April 8 & 9th at Wild Rose Casino
- 3rd District Spring Conference- March 19th at Toledo American Legion Post #72
- 4th District Spring Conference- April 23rd at Our Savior Lutheran Church
- 5th District Spring Conference- April 9th – Fraternal Order of Eagles
- 6th District Spring Conference- April 23rd – Gilbert Lutheran Church
- 7th District Spring Conference- March 26th – Bloom Senior Center
- 8th District Spring Conference- April 2nd – Heartland Bank Gowrie
- 9th District Spring Conference- April 9th – Onawa Community Center

HOW IS YOUR VA MONEY BEING SPENT?

Do you as a member sometimes wonder if the donations are going to the proper VAVS or IVH? We can assure you that the Department office is very good of getting the money you donated to the proper facilities. At 2022 Mid-Winter Conference the DEC approved these funds to be spent at each of the facilities.

- Omaha - \$1,00 for weighted blankets,
\$100 for busy board for Alzheimer patients, \$300 for Stand down,
\$278 for 2 joyful companion dogs, \$300 for baby shower and
\$1,000 for Golden Age Games for a total of \$3,325
- Des Moines – \$2,000 for 4 photography cameras,
\$300 for 3 Bluetooth speakers,
\$80 for 2 sets of Pickleball paddles for a total of \$2,380
- Sioux Falls - \$1,200 for 2 pairs of 15 different sizes of shoes,
\$175 for Wishes for Heroes program and
\$1,000 for Golden Age Games for a total of \$2,375
- Iowa City - \$750 for 25 Tracfone @ \$30 each,
\$625 for 25 phone cards @ 25 each and
\$1,200 for a baby shower for a total of \$2,575
- Veterans Home - \$1,019.94 for 6 Electric Serno set and
\$3,355 for a pinball machine for a total of \$4,374.94
- Gold Club - To give \$2,875 for Fisher House in Iowa City and
\$2,000 for Golden Age Games for a total of \$4,875
- To give \$4,450 to the Fisher House in Iowa City
- To give \$175 to the Fisher House in Iowa City
- To give \$1,000 for Golden Age Games

The grand total is \$25,530 for the Veterans. We will be a sponsor of \$5,000 for the Golden Age Games being held in Sioux Falls in July and a donation of \$7,500 for the dedication of the Fisher House in Iowa City when it's finished. That's amazing because of your donations. The Department of Iowa thanks each and every member that pays their dues!

Poppy Kathy Harding

The time is getting closer, and I would like to know what you will be doing for National Poppy Day, May 28th?

I have only heard from two units on what they have been doing this year. This should be a bumper distribution this year since we didn't have a good one last year. Thank you for bringing your displays to Mid Winter Conference.

What talented people we have in this great organization.

May 1st is the deadline for poster contest. I have to have them judged and sent in to National. All details are on the website for this project.

Are you working on Miss Poppy, Jr. Miss Poppy and the King and Queen? The winners will be announced at State Convention.

Details for these are also on the website. **Deadline is June 10th.**

National Security

Established in 1928 this program has been a corner stone of our organization for over ninety years. It encompasses many areas of our lives.

With all that is going on in the world right now please take a moment to reflect on how you and, or your unit can be of service to our military. Go to ALA Military Family Readiness Action Guidebook for suggestions on the type of support military families may value. Be aware of and informed on issues such as PTSD, TBI, domestic violence, financial literacy and other issues that affect our military and their families. Get to know your local Legion Service Officer and offer assistance. Coordinate for community donations and assemble servicemember care packages and family member support packages. Work with TAPS [Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors]. Help staff a program fair for military spouses. Get to know your Legislators and let them know how important the issues are that the Legion is supporting. Volunteering for your local and county emergency agencies are also one way to support National Security. Know how to and be prepared for the emergencies in your area are extremely important. Making sure that your elderly neighbors are helped is also one way to be of service. Please remember that you can always go to alaforveterans.org and check out their page for National Security.

Important dates coming up are Unit Award: Most Outstanding Unit National Security Program [per division] Deadline is June 1, 2022 Send to National Division Chair by the deadline. Can be mailed or e-mailed but must be before the listed date.

Year end reports are due to me by April 30th, 2022

National Security Chair, Verlinda Prior

Leadership

Remember the contests- Unit Leadership Program- due to me by April 25th. Narrative describing your Unit Leadership program for this year. Preferably one page to Jayne Soppe 12228 Lynx Rd West Union IA 52175 OR sopped@hotmail.com.

Unit Member of the Year – one page describing members accomplishments in this Auxiliary year for your Unit. Member must NOT have held an office higher than Unit level. Send to your District President who will choose one to send to me.

Don't Limit your challenges – challenge your limits!

Are you a Leader if no one follows you??? Most people are a leader of some type whether is in your home, family, work, church, community. There are many types of leaders – which are you???

Some people are nature leaders – people look to them for ideas actions and results and following them. Some people work at learning to be a leader in their situation. Some people accept a position as a leader and assume that others will follow them – but do they???

We can ALL work on our Leadership skills and learn more. We need to learn to listen- listen to and accept others' ideas. We need to follow thru and incorporate all facets of a situation and think thru from all sides prior to action- but sometimes you need quick action. Just make sure you are taking action and not reacting. – this involves too much emotion and not enough consideration.

Good Leadership skills include –

- Listening
- Encouraging ideas from all
- Consideration of all ideas
- Discussing and planning action
- Sharing your knowledge & enthusiasm & involving & including all parties

* Being transparent on the "why's" as we work together

* Thanking all for their help and participation

* Taking action with all involved

If your action inspires others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, **YOU ARE A LEADER!**



Boys State District Orientations

Delegates are encouraged to attend the orientation in their District.
They may attend ANY orientation that is closer to their home or being held at a more convenient date.

1st District
April 16, 2022 (Saturday)
2:30 PM
Crawfordsville American Legion Post #593
113 E Vine Street
Crawfordsville, IA 52621
Point of Contact:
Dr. Dan McClure
(319) 653-3413

2nd District
May 1, 2022 (Sunday)
2:00 PM
Marion American Legion Post #298
625 31st St.
Marion, IA 52302
Point of Contact:
Jim Crowley
(414) 630-5689
jimmycrowl588@yahoo.com

3rd District
April 3, 2022 (Sunday)
3:00 PM
Iowa Falls American Legion Post #188
709 South Oak
Iowa Falls, IA 50126
May 29, 2022 (Sunday)
3:00 PM
Point of Contact:
Jim Zacharias
(641) 640-7872
jjzacharias1946@gmail.com

4th District
May 1, 2022 (Sunday)
2:00 PM
West Union American Legion Post #15
103 E Main Street
West Union, IA 52175
Point of Contact:
Jake Blitsch
(319) 240-0592
jakpeg@msn.com

5th District
May 15, 2022 (Sunday)
2:00 PM
Oskaloosa American Legion Post #34
302 High Ave E
Oskaloosa, IA 52577
Point of Contact:
Don Lane
(641) 790-0041
greentrak4@hotmail.com

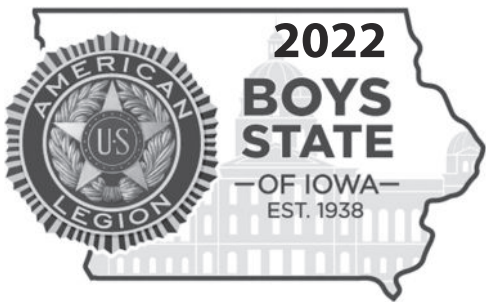
6th District
April 24, 2022 (Sunday)
1:00 PM
Baldwin-Patterson American Legion Post #274
2211 E 42nd Street
Des Moines, IA 50317
Point of Contact:
Jim Foster
(515) 265-1913
fisher.james10@yahoo.com

7th District
April 10, 2022 (Sunday)
1:00 PM
Virtually via Zoom
Information will be emailed to confirmed delegates
April 24, 2022 (Sunday)

Virtually via Zoom
Information will be emailed to confirmed delegates
Point of Contact:
Brian Ring
(402) 670-2168
brianring.legion@outlook.com

8th District
April 27, 2022 (Wednesday)
7:00 PM
Dedham American Legion Post #20
301 Main St.
Dedham, IA 51440
May 2, 2022 (Monday)
7:00 PM
Forest City American Legion Post #121
113 S Clark St.
Forest City, IA 50436
Point of Contact:
Al Tigges
(712) 790-7053
ptigges@hotmail.com

9th District
April 24, 2022 (Sunday)
1:00 PM
Spencer American Legion Post #1
Hwy 71 North Spencer
Spencer, IA 51301
May 1, 2022 (Sunday)
3:00 PM
Le Mars American Legion Post #241
110 Plymouth St W
Le Mars, IA 51031
Point of Contact:
Scott Koedem
(712) 470-7037
skoedam@hopehaven.org



2022 Boys State

The dates this year have been set for Sunday, June 19 - Friday, June 24, 2022. Please direct any questions to your Post or District Chairmen concerning the process. Orientation dates are posted in this publication. Also, please note the delegate registration closing deadline.

April 1, 2022 - Post Refund Request Deadline - Requests must be submitted through the online form www.ialegion.org/refunds by 11:59 PM. No exceptions will be honored afterwards.

April 1, 2022 - Delegate Registration Closes - Delegates will not accepted after the deadline.

District Spring Conferences

- 1st District**
March 26 – Mt. Pleasant
- 2nd District**
April 9 – Clinton
- 3rd District**
March 19 – Tama
- 4th District**
April 23 – Manchester
- 5th District**
April 9 – Centerville
- 6th District**
April 23 – Gilbert

- 7th District**
March 26 – Glenwood
- 8th District**
April 2 – Gowrie
- 9th District**
April 9 – Onawa
- SAL**
April 24 – Des Moines

For more details including hotel, banquet and hospitality if applicable, please visit: www.ialegion.org/districtconferences



Flag Essay Contest Results

www.ialegion.org/flag-essay

Flag Essays were collected and judged based on specific criterion during Mid-Winter by the Children & Youth Committee. Each district had excellent submissions, but of course only three can be selected as the winners for this year. The top three finalists will be given the opportunity to read their submissions to the whole delegation during Department Convention in July. We want to thank all the posts who take the time to work with their local 5th grade classes to see this through.

First place went to Aylin Baldwin of Jesup Elementary in Jesup, Iowa. Aylin is a student of Ms. Lauren Weepie and the child of Bill Baldwin. Aylin was sponsored by Pump-Schiers American Legion Post #342 in Jesup and District 4. This is the second year in a row that Ms. Weepie's student and Jesup's post sponsorship has taken first place in this contest.

Runner up went to Peyton Bertelsen of IKM-Manning Elementary in Manning, Iowa. Peyton is a student of Ms. Michelle Meyers and child of Ashley Bertelsen. Peyton was sponsored by Manilla American Legion Post #132 in Manilla and District 8.

Third place went to John Franklin Boelens of St. Joseph Catholic Elementary in DeWitt, Iowa. John is a student of Mrs. Brenda Dieckmann and child of Angela Boelens. John was sponsored by Eugene McManus American Legion Post #238 in DeWitt and District 2.

Each student will receive their prizes during Department Convention.

Approved copies of the winning essays will be available online through the Department's website this summer.

2022 Department Media Contest

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

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

All submissions (5 copies), with required documentation as outlined in the entry instructions, must be mailed to:
The American Legion of Iowa
ATTN: Media Contest
720 Lyon St.
Des Moines, Iowa 50309

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

Awards:

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

Mid-Winter Sweepstakes Winners

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

Grand Prize \$5,000 –	Lawrence Patterson (Newton)
2nd Place \$2,000 –	Kenneth Eischeid (Manning)
3rd Place \$1,000 –	Andrew Grovo (Urbandale)
4th Place \$500 –	Bennett Wiese (Glenwood)
5th Place \$500 –	Lewis Darrah (Cedar Rapids)
6th Place \$500 –	Eli Vaughn (Afton)
7th Place \$500 –	Doug D Wood (Perry)

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

Baseball

www.ialegion.org/baseball

The American Legion Baseball season will soon be off to its start. Area Tournaments will be played April 23-24 and April 30-May 1. Locations will be determined soon. The Department Finals is tentatively scheduled to be played on Sunday, July 24th. Location to be finalized soon. All details will be made available online at www.ialegion.org/baseball as soon as they are finalized.

2022 Player Indemnification Forms (Form 2) for state play are due to Department Headquarters no later than April 1, 2022. Team rosters are due no later than April 1, 2022 on National's site. Rosters will be certified soon afterwards. There will be no exceptions.

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

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



Foundation Grants

www.ialegion.org/iafoundation

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

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

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

National Commander's Tour continued from front page

While visiting Iowa, Commander Dillard will make his way around to the eastern part of the state from Des Moines beginning on March 21st:

Monday, March 21
Meeting with Governor Reynolds and National Guard Adjutant

Tuesday, March 22
AM – Meeting with Commandant Matthew Peterson, IVH
PM – Grinnell Post #53 & Newburg Post #630

Wednesday, March 23
AM – Grout Museum, Waterloo
PM – Waverly Post #176

Thursday, March 24
AM – Oelwein Post #9
PM – Basilica of St. Francis Xavier, Field of Dreams & Dyersville Post #137

Friday, March 25
AM – Keokuk Post #41 & Keokuk National Cemetery
PM – Oskaloosa Post #34

An itinerary with times will be available online through the department's website. We would like to extend our welcome to Commander Dillard and his entourage.

LEO and Firefighter of the Year

Nominations for Law Enforcement Officer of the Year and Firefighter of the Year were received through the end of November. Sergeant Jeffrey Scott Reyhons of the Clinton County Sheriff's Department was selected as the recipient of Iowa's Law Enforcement Officer of the Year. Sgt. Reyhons was nominated by June Van Meter American Legion Post #190 in Clinton, Iowa (2nd District). Sgt. Reyhons has been serving in law enforcement for 26 years. He is married to his wife Julie and resides in Clinton, Iowa. Sgt. Reyhons will receive his award at the Department's convention in July and his application was forwarded to National for consideration.

Lieutenant Ryan Winkler of the Clinton Fire Department was selected as the Department Firefighter of the Year. Lt. Winkler was nominated by June Van Meter American Legion Post # 190 of Clinton, IA (2nd District). Lt. Winkler has been serving as a firefighter for 12 years. He is married to his wife Callie and resides in Charlotte, Iowa. Lt. Winkler will receive his award at the Department's convention in July and his application was forwarded to National for consideration of The American Legion's Firefighter of the Year.

Congratulations to all involved in the process. Posts whose nominations were not selected for either award, please consider reapplying next year.

2021-2022 Consolidated Post Reports (CPR)

The American Legion's 2021-2022 Consolidated Post Report (CPR) will be mailed to each post mid-March. The CPR, which documents every activity a post fulfills in a 12-month (June 1-May 31) reporting period, is due to Department Headquarters no later than June 15, 2022. If you are post still using the paper form, send the white and yellow copy to Department Headquarters. Keep the pink copy for your post records.

Whether it's providing funeral honors, sponsoring youth to attend a Legion program, conducting fundraising efforts or more, your post has something to report. A fillable 2021-2022 CPR form can be accessed through the Department's website www.ialegion.org/cpr and submitted by mail.

Preferably, the CPR can easily be completed and submitted through myLegion.org; it's located under "Post and Department" options. The online form is the Legion's preferred method both on a state and national level, so posts are highly encouraged to complete them online.

After completing the form, click on the "Submit" button to send the report to National Headquarters; a copy will automatically be sent to Department Headquarters, as well. Online submission will be available at myLegion.org through July 1st, the cutoff for receipt of forms at National Headquarters. Completing the online form allows national to update the state's tally immediately, ensuring an accurate account.

Finally, any post desiring to qualify for Department Awards for their CPR must provide a concise but well written narrative of the post's involvement. Only posts whose CPRs accompanied by a narrative will be eligible for Department Community Service and Children & Youth Awards.

Buddy Checks

by Dept. Adjutant John Derner

Taking care of our fellow veterans is a primary mission of The American Legion. We fulfill this mission in many ways. Our Service Office assists veterans with their claims for VA benefits, with obtaining VA health care, with discharge upgrades, and many other services. The American Legion advocates for veteran's legislation on the national and state levels. Members of The American Legion volunteer at VA hospitals and clinics and the Iowa Veterans Home. Posts loan medical equipment such as wheelchairs, walkers, crutches and even hospital beds to veterans. Serving our fellow veterans is not just what we do, it is who we are.

At the National Executive Committee meeting in May of 2019, The American Legion passed Resolution 18, calling for Buddy Checks to be conducted Legion-wide on the weeks of The American Legion's Birthday, March 15, and Veterans Day, November 11. However, American Legion posts are encouraged to perform Buddy Checks whenever it works best in their own community.

The purpose of the Buddy Check is to reconnect with veterans who may

need assistance but don't know where to go or who to ask. The important part is to reach out to veterans in your community to let them know you care and help where possible.

Conducting Buddy Checks is not a difficult process. Gather up a team to call or personally visit members and former members of The American Legion. Get a list of members and former members by using your roster or from mylegion.org. Divide up the call list among your team members. Start making connections – either from a quiet place inside the post or from your home – to see how the members and former members are doing. Ask if they need anything and invite them to any event or activity planned for your post. Thank the member or former member in the beginning and at the end of your call. If the member or former member wishes to renew, be sure to have your post's payment procedure at your fingertips, the address to send a check or offer to stop by in person to pick it up. Give the member contact information in case the member or former member can't take the call or needs anything in the future.

For more information on conducting buddy checks, and to download the Buddy Check Toolkit, visit: www.legion.org/membership/buddycheck.

Membership Memo

Another Mid-Winter Conference has now come and gone. I was excited for the great turn out at the MyLegion training sessions on the Saturday of Mid-Winter. A version of the handout is available on our department website, so if you couldn't make it, feel free to check that out.

National continues to improve MyLegion and get it running better, so feel free to get on there and try it out. If you haven't registered, make sure to read the instructions under the Resources section before going too far. Once on there, take some time to look for those members in our Headquarters Post, make corrections to a member's information, process membership, and more. Once you get comfortable with the MyLegion, you'll be ready for the new year in July.

While you are on the site, also start to make note of some of the things you wish the new MyLegion could do. National is happy to start thinking forward to what MyLegion could do after the initial bugs get worked out. If there is a feature you've been waiting for, let us know!

No matter how you submit membership, keep in mind that April is almost here. As printing for the new cards typically happens in April, making those updates to a member's profile prior to that time helps the next cards reflect more accurate information. You can make these changes through MyLegion or by submitting a Member Data Form, however your Post makes those updates. Members can even make their own updates through their MyLegion account, if they have one.

All this being said, don't forget to also enjoy the spring weather! I've heard getting some sun before learning how to use MyLegion can help to produce a happier MyLegion experience. Until next time!

Ann Haack, Membership Clerk

National Legion College December 11-16, 2022

The National Legion College prepares young Legionnaires for leadership positions in Posts, Districts, Counties, and Departments through education, development, and motivation. The curriculum challenges student leaders to think critically and creatively about issues confronting the Legion.

2022 Legion College class is scheduled for December 11-16, 2022. The 2022 student application is posted and available at legion.org/college.

The Department of Iowa is currently seeking two candidates. The prerequisites

to apply for the National American Legion College are as follows: preferred active service during Desert Storm or later, all candidates must be a member in good standing, be a member for a minimum of three continuous years, have completed Basic Training online with a certificate dated after August 2016, and must be vetted and endorsed by their department leadership. Basic Training can be completed at www.legion.org/alei.

Class of 2022 student applications are due no later than July 1, 2022, to Department Headquarters so they can be reviewed and endorsed before national's deadline.

If you have any questions, please contact Adjutant Derner at 800-365-8387 or john@ialegion.org.

**POST & SQUADRON
EVERLASTING
11/01/2021 – 1/31/2022**

SPENCER #1
PHILIP A GRADY
JOE N GRAFF
JEROME G KIMBALL
JACK ST. PETERS
COUNCIL BLUFFS #2
WILLIAM L BIEDE
ROBERT M DARNELL
EARL ERNST
GLENN C JACKSON
WILLIAM D JOHANNES
WILHELM E KOENIG
TERRY MUILENBURG
LARRY SIMPSON
RICHARD L TALLMAN
JOHN W VERMUELE
OTTUMWA #3
EDWARD ANNIS
SAMUEL B BROWN
RICHARD L COLLETT JR
WILLIAM CUMMINGS
JAMES H HUDDLESTON
GENE W KEEP
DANIEL L LOOMIS
LLOYD MCCROY
M C MCELROY
JAMES W MORFORD
MAYNARD D PENROD
MARILYN L RICHARDS
DUBUQUE #6
DARRELL E EICKELKAMP
ROBERT L LEWIS
MICHAEL J MARTIN
DON J PETTIT
HARLYN G TURNER
MARY E WELSH
CARROLL #7
RICHARD J KEAT
LAWRENCE KLUKOW
OMER J LANGENFELD
GERALD SCHRECK
DALE P STORK
DENISON #8
ROBERT REISZ
OELWEIN #9
ELDON K INGAMELLS
VIRGIL R MCCLAIN
GERALD E SCHMIDT
DON W SMITH
ERNEST L STEINMAN
JEFFERSON #11
KENNETH HASTINGS
WARREN A ROBSON
MARATHON #12
R R RICHARDSON
ANAMOSA #13
KENNETH C ARMSTRONG
CLARENCE J BRADY
JOHN R CHESIRE
WEST UNION #15
RICHARD MEYER
DONALD W VAGTS
IOWA CITY #17
JOHN NOTHNAGLE
POCAHONTAS #18
E L JOACHIMS
DEDHAM #20
DONALD R TIGGES
ROLFE #25
TERRY C LEMAN
VIRGIL RICKLEFS
DAVENPORT #26
ELISEO CHAVEZ
RICHARD J ELVIDGE
EARL E GULLION
JAY R LESTER
MUSCATINE #27
TIMOTHY A HYINK
LARRY B OWEN
JOHN R PLOGH
DONALD F SCOTT
WASHINGTON #29
JACK BONHAM
GARTH V RUSTAN

LAKE CITY #31
GERALD DELUHERY
WILLIAM D KURTH
RUTHVEN #33
RONALD A STRUTHERS
OSKALOOSA #34
LARRY ANDERSON
DELBERT O BRACKNEY
IVAN H MAASDAM
KENNETH VANMERSBERGEN
AMES #37
EDWARD E SORENSON
BELLE PLAINE #39
LEONARD J JANSEN
VIRGIL R MAREK
PAUL E RIHA
KEOKUK #41
CHARLES F ANSCHUTZ
ROY FLATTEN
WILLIAM H JEFFERS
ROBERT D SEABOLD
REYNOLD G STOUT
GEORGE L VERMILLION JR
ANKENY #42
DENNIS L APPELDORN
WILLIAM J MCCARTHY
JAMES G NELSON
DENNIS B PINGEL
JERRY L WEISS
ATLANTIC #43
HOWARD W ANDERSEN
JOHN A CARNS
LOWELL L WESTON
MANCHESTER #45
RON STRUBLE
MARSHALLTOWN #46
THOMAS F GIARRATANO
JOHN C HAUSER
NEVADA #48
FRED L CHITTY
LANSING #50
JAMES F ROSSI
GRINNELL #53
ISADORE BERMAN
BRIAN STEINE
VICTOR #54
GEORGE R DEDECKER
DANIEL KOCHUYT
MICHAEL VANTHOURNOUT
OGDEN #55
DONALD L CROUSE
BOONE #56
HANS H GOEPPINGER
FRED S RATHER
MT PLEASANT #58
JOHN H MARCH
JOHN T RIDDICK
JERRY WELLS
STORY CITY #59
ROBERT F HANSON
WAUKON #62
ALTON G JOHNSON
JERRY W SIEGRIST
CALVIN R TJADEN
SIOUX CITY #64
WILLIAM R HANNA
CRESTON #70
ROLAND PETERSON
GARWIN #71
JAMES P MCCARROLL
TOLEDO #72
DALE W HENLE
TAMA #73
ROBERT A WEITZELL
SABULA #74
STANLEY A HOLMBO
MAQUOKETA #75
THOMAS CROUCH
GERALD FELTES
BLOOMFIELD #78
PHILLIP ALBRIGHT
BILL BRIDE
ERROL F DIXON
DAVID W HARDY
DORAN W PENCE
ROBERT SCHLOTTER
RICHARD W SCHLOTTER
WILLIAM C SMITH

LOREN R TALLMAN
MYRON G WHITE
CORRECTIONVILLE #79
ARNOLD E SANDS
LEON #80
DONALD REDMAN
COLLINS #81
JAMES E HUNTRODS
HEDRICK #83
ROSS S BREON
JOHN O LEWIS JR
PERRY #85
PAUL G DANIELS
LELAND R GODWIN
HOWARD C HEATON
HAROLD M SHEETS
JERRY D THOMPSON
SHENANDOAH #88
STEVEN L FIENUP
PELLA #89
M G KLIMSTRA
ROBERT VANDER WILT
DELMER VAN KOOTEN
ALGONA #90
RICHARD B LAPPIN
PAULLINA #95
JERRY J SAUNDERS
LORIMOR #96
LARRY L GOOKIN
DONALD E JENNINGS
CLEARFIELD #97
WILLIAM R PARRISH
COLUMBUS JCT #100
RICHARD A UTTER
DONALD WESTAWAY
MASON CITY #101
LOWELL J COOK
ROCK RAPIDS #103
RAYMOND DELFS
JACK HOOGEVEEN
HENRY ZOET JR
PLEASANTVILLE #108
HOWARD C METCALF
MANLY #110
PHILLIP L THUNE
NEWTON #111
ALBERT H JONES
MORNING SUN #112
W L MATTHEWS
WILLIAM P SCHELLING
LARRY J WARD
FONDA #114
WESLEY FRITZ
AUDUBON #120
KENT D WALTERS
TIPTON #123
KENNETH W NEBERGALL
GUTHRIE CNTR #124
JACK L OLSEN
DALLAS STEENSEN
MERRILL #125
DARRELL J PETERS
SIDNEY #128
KEITH D CATLETT
FT DODGE #130
DONALD CUMMINS
ALBIA #136
PHILLIP WHITSON
COLO #139
DONALD L WILSON
GLENWOOD #141
RICHARD WRAY
WOODBINE #143
RALPH BARRY
ERVIN POORE
ROBERT STANISLAV
SHELDON #145
RANDALL BRINKMAN
MERLE T REEKERS
RUBEN WINTER
STUART #146
ARCHIE L JONES
RALPH J WESTRE
STOCKPORT #147
GLEN HENDRICKS
HARLAN #150
CHARLES H WOOSTER JR
WEST BEND #151

GREGORY P SCHULLER
EARLHAM #158
TED LENOCKER
INDIANOLA #165
JAMES R HOYMAN
JERRY L SAUNDERS
LAWRENCE L SEID
NEWHALL #167
LOREN CAROLAN
KNOXVILLE #168
ANCIL L BORCHERT
HAROLD M WRIGHT
MONTEZUMA #169
BILL BUSHONG
DENNIS JOHNSTON
ROBERT M SUTFIN
MESERVEY #172
WILLIAM D ANDREWS
JOHN W CLINE
STEPHEN M SWANK
CHARLES CITY #174
JAMES A ERB
WAVERLY #176
JERALD T SMITH
MT AUBURN #177
FRED ROQUET
HAMPTON #183
PAUL SCHULZ
WINTERSET #184
JOHN GRAY
JOHANNES D HUIZINGA
WENDELL SPENCER
AKRON #186
DUANE COON
BERNARD KOTS
IA FALLS #188
GLEN BEAMAN
WAUCOMA #189
PHILIP F KRUSE
CLINTON #190
O K MCDERMOTT
EDWARD S STASZEWSKI
WEBSTER CITY #191
ELDON D FAINE
AL K FOX
MORRIS L HASSEBROCK
KENNETH W MILLER
DONALD R WILLIAMS SR
NEWELL #193
NORMAN J LUND
JAMES L REESE
SAC CITY #195
KEITH W SPICER
WESTSIDE #196
REYNOLD L GEHLSSEN
DONALD GRUNDMEIER
KENNETH KOCK
SIOUX CNTR #199
EDWIN L BOOTE
LA PORTE CITY #207
HARLAN E WITRY
WOODWARD #211
LAWRENCE R BICE
CENTERVILLE #214
KEVIN ARBOGAST
ATKINS #217
BLANE D PHILLIPS SR
STRAWBERRY PT #218
TERRY JESSEN
DARWIN D JONES
CLEAR LAKE #222
ROBERT N GLIDDEN
WILLIAM L NICHOLAS
FLOYD A PETERSBURG
WILLIAM A SORBO
SUMNER #223
EARL BRANDT
ALVIN JESKE
DENNIS YUNG TUM
DUNLAP #224
DOUG CHASE
AVOCA #227
JERRY W MEZ
DONALD E PATTEE
WILLIAMSBURG #228
HARVEY G MAAS
CORWITH #229
ARTHUR W CONAWAY

CHEROKEE #230
HAROLD A LARSON
FARMINGTON #231
MICHAEL J JACOBSMEIER
RICK L KUROWSKI
DONALD E POOLE
POLK CITY #232
REX BURTON
R W HILDRETH
STEVEN J LANDWEHR
NORMAN J NICKEL
JAMES L RUDDY
CAMBRIDGE #233
WALLACE E NERNES
NORWAY #234
RICK FRAME
LAKE MILLS #235
DAVID ERICKSON
DEAN HOLSTAD
JOHN T KELSO
CEDAR FALLS #237
RICKIE L COX
ELDON F EBERT
DONALD J GOERES
RICHARD C MURPHY
GILMORE CITY #239
ELDEN F LANNING
LE MARS #241
DICK ERNST
DONALD J HOFFMAN
DAVID L ROLLINGER
DON SCHNEPF
FRANKLIN J WILHELMI
CLARION #246
CHARLES L GANGESTAD
ROYAL #248
VERNON R MORTENSEN
ALLISON #253
MICHAEL KNOCK
GARNER #256
EDWARD R KOTZ
GLENN WILLE
SLATER #260
PAUL B FRIEDEL
ED E MOORE
GERALD D SCHAUDT
MILO #263
JAMES J HEROLD
STEVEN KELLIS
RUDOLPH D WADLE
URBANA #264
CHARLES R BOYLES
ROBERT L ZIESER
GREENFIELD #265
DONALD F DOLAN
GREENE #268
RAYMOND B DEVRIES
BELLEVUE #273
LORAS E ERNST
LEONARD G MANDERS
DES MOINES #274
LELAND M HILL
FREDA SIMMONS
IRETON #276
RONALD MUTH
OSAGE #278
L JEANNE BROWN
LAWRENCE N GOERGEN
LAWLER #279
DUANE WILKENS
WASHTA #283
MICHAEL D HANSON
HARTLEY #288
WAYNE L WESTPHALEN
SLOAN #295
WRAY J BUSER
MORRIS G DAHL
DEEP RIVER #296
DONALD L BATES
CENTER PT #297
FRANCIS D BARRICK
EARL WARD
MARION #298
EVERETTE G ALDERMAN
ALBERT B HANSON
ALLEN J HINZ
WILLIAM HUGGINS
GARY KEUNE

JAMES A MINCKS
GARY J WALSH
BRITT #315
DUANE A ENGSTLER
HENRY GREMMER
RICHARD KAHLER
DENNIS E KLINE
LILLIAN WILLIAMS
DENNIS L ZUEHL
RADCLIFFE #317
ALLEN L BUSCH
WENDELL EIKE
SANBORN #318
HOWARD J STRAYER
KESWICK #319
GEORGE A MORROW
OCHEYEDAN #326
CARROLL H DASS
JOHN W IEDEMA
ORANGE CITY #329
HERMAN COOPER
WILLIAM MULDER
SPRINGVILLE #331
DAVID M MACHULA
EXIRA #332
DAVID W SCHRAMPFER
MCCALLSBURG #334
JERRY L BRITTEN
DANBURY #336
GARY P SEUNTIJENS
MISSOURI VALLEY #337
GARY A FOBIAN
RAY PIKE
LEONARD L RATLIFF
GEORGE WINTHER
JESUP #342
CLINTON J OHRT
MATT J SCHMITZ
BRAYTON #350
PHYLIP WOLF
ELGIN #352
NORMAN J STUART
COON RAPIDS #357
PAUL NICODEMUS
COGGON #362
DWIGHT D LECLERE
MONROE #363
KENNETH W NEFF
GERALD M VANZANTE
MARION D WILLEMSSEN
MOORHEAD #365
JOHN B MOORHEAD
GOLDFIELD #370
ANDREW HANSON
PANORA #372
ROBERT S KEITH
GUTTENBERG #373
EDWARD W DAVIS
PAUL H SAEUGLING
RONALD L SCHROEDER
CURTIS H SCHROEDER
DES MOINES #374
MARK A BOGGIO
DEWAYNE A HOLMES
LEWIS A JENKINS
MICHAEL H RYE
CLERMONT #375
DANIEL AGUILAR
BANCROFT #377
ALBERT R DEITERING
WILLIAM J DUDDING
WILLIAM A KENNEDY
LOST NATION #381
LOWELL A TILL
KIRON #383
GLEN R ALDAG
LAWRENCE E BERGMAN
RICHARD R GILMORE
MILFORD #384
EARL F SPORRER
MERLIN H WUEBKER
ST OLAF #388
LORRAINE H TAAKE
ANTHON #389
DALE E HAYWORTH
ROGER SAND
AURELIA #390
GERALD ANDERSON

RICHARD BONNESEN
SIOUX RAPIDS #394
ROGER FAIRCHILD
HAROLD D HOLLESEN
WESLEY HUFFMAN
BONDURANT #396
REX C DERBY
DWIGHT L MORRISSEY
VAN METER #403
RUSSELL KNUTH
GEORGE #404
DARYLE W HILBRANDS
DON B MALLETT
JOHN W RYPKEMA
LITTLE SIOUX #410
TERRY G PEASLEY
LIVERMORE #415
RALPH BORMANN
ROYDEN J MILLER
PATON #417
DONALD W HYNDMAN
CENTRAL CITY #421
NILE V BROWN
HOSPERS #423
JUNIOR J POPPEMA
IRWIN W WOULDSTRA
WHITTEMORE #425
DAROLD L ELBERT
KENNETH W ROEBER
LACONA #426
DWAYNE MANSER
WELLMAN #427
MELVIN W LISKA
QUASQUETON #434
BILL J BERNIS
MINDEN #437
FRANCIS DOOLEY
HAROLD LEFEBER
ROGER WULFF
THORNTON #440
LUVERN RUITER
GALVA #454
GERALD J OMEARA
LONE TREE #457
LEWIS P PETERSON
OLON #460
VIRGIL J HOLUB
DONALD R MEIERS
CHARLES E PANZER
WILLIAM C STICKNEY
MICHAEL TUSING
ADEL #464
EUGENE MAABS
DIKE #471
MERVIN D ANDERSEN
RUSSELL J PERRY
OXFORD JCT #473
PAUL LASACK
DONNELLSON #474
STEVEN L ANDERSON
ROBERT D KNIGHT
JOHN P RIS
JERRY T SEVIER
DOON #476
LOUIE KOPSAS
MARVIN S POST
HINTON #477
JOHN F KRAPFL
CECIL H LANG
STEVEN L OEHLERKING
JERRY OFERT
CLEGHORN #486
LELAND A ANDERSON
CHARLES T BROWN
NORTH ENGLISH #488
EMERY G COBB
DUNCOMBE #491
THOMAS E KIRBY
BAXTER #493
LAWRENCE HALTER
CASTANA #502
BERNARD L FARBER
MICHAEL L LANE
OSSIAN #503
BRENDA J JOHNSON
BUSSEY #505
ORPHY I BLOOM
WENDELL L CLARK

*Continued from
previous page*

WEST LIBERTY #509

M J STEEN
EDGEWOOD #512
ROBERT J MEYER
JANESVILLE #522
EMERY L GRIFFITH
DOWS #523
ELMER H WIRTZ
CASCADE #528
RONALD G. MANTERNACH
KENNETH MOREHEAD
JOHN SULLIVAN
ELLSTON #541
KENNETH E ADAMS
LYTTON #546
RONALD R MEYER
CHARLES P STRAIN
JEWELL #550
LOWELL R JACOBSON
ELY #555
THOMAS G VAVRA
LONE ROCK #557
JAMES J JENSEN
CUMMING #562
ROGER J BALLARD
RUSTY M DOLL

JOHN R KEAN
BONAPARTE #563
CHARLES K CRABILL
STACYVILLE #569
EDWARD J HATTEN
ROBERT HEMANN
JOHN W HEMANN
FAIRFAX #572
WILLIAM G GIBNEY
HAROLD G SCHAEFER
VERNON G VOTROUBEK
RIPPEY #583
DALE WHITEHEAD
CRAWFORDSVILLE #593
GEORGE FULTON
ELMA #597
KEITH J ROETHLER
PANAMA #601
CHARLES BLUM
PROTIVIN #605
DENNIS C KOMAREK
MAGNOLIA #612
LARRY E WALLIS
EARLING #615
JAMES KOHLES
CUSHING #624
HAROLD L NISSEN
OLDS #626
WARREN J PETERSON

FENTON #627
AMAND P DANGELSER
MELCHER #632
KENNETH E GASS
FLAVIN HOCH
WILLIAMS #633
ROSS NISSEN
DUNKERTON #636
FRED A NORDMAN
ELDRIDGE #639
JAMES C TRASK
WINFIELD #643
DON L HELPHREY
EPWORTH #650
DONALD FURUSETH
JAMES R KEAN
DENVER #653
JAMES H LEARN
FARLEY #656
CLARENCE KENNICKER
DES MOINES #659
ROBERT E BURRIS
MICHAEL CARROW
SGT BLUFF #662
JOHN R CRICHTON
DAVID H LUHMAN
URBANDALE #663
C J DEANGELO
HAROLD R JACOBS SR

ROGER D NYBERG
ELMER J STRANG
ELROY J WINGERS
JOHN T WOOD
WEST POINT #668
WILLARD P GARMOE JR
ERWIN RIPPENKROEGER
SWISHER #671
HOWARD E LANNOM
LESLIE YOUNG
MILES #677
DAN SMITH
CONRAD #681
MARVIN L KLINE
ALTOONA #682
BOB LOGSDON
NEAL SMITH
RUNNELLS #689
ROBERT BEATTIE
ARCADIA #694
ARCHIE J RICKE
MODALE #695
GARY LEWIS
SIoux CITY #697
GERALD E LAPORA
ROBERT J RICE
BLUE GRASS #711
DONALD L HOLLMER
ALLAN A NELSON

DWIGHT R SCHROEDER
GILBERTVILLE #714
RONALD L HACKBARTH
RICHARD L KERNS
MARVIN A MEINERT
JAMES B SCHMITZ
SST MARYS #716
RONALD L BROMMEL
DELBERT C HECKMAN
JOHN VEASMAN
ALVIN E VICKROY
NEVINVILLE #719
CARL G BILEY
DAVID A KRAUTH
ROY J PARSONS
HANCOCK #720
DELBERT E KING
CORALVILLE #721
DONALD HARTVIGSEN
HARPERS FERRY #722
PHILIP DEHLI
DONALD C WILLIAMS
GARNAVILLO #723
NORMAN GUNDERSON
IOWA HQ #729
JAMES L KUTZBACH
DAVID ANDREWS
RICHARD ARMBRECHT
JOHN R FARA

GERALD FRIZZELL
ROBERT JORDAN
BARRY KUIPER
GORDON L LUNDBERG
ROBERT D MAXFIELD
RODNEY C MOONEY
CURT G NORBY
ROBERT O NYSTROM
JAMES M ORGAN
ROBERT J RICHARDS
MARTIN C ROGNESS
ROBERT SHEPHERD
DES MOINES #731
JOE PEREZ SR
WAUKEE #737
THOMAS L HINGST

SQUADRONS

SPENCER #1
JACK ST PETERS
DUBUQUE #6
MICHAEL J MARTIN
WEST UNION #15
LARRY BARKER
MUSCATINE #27
DOUGLAS GRIFFIN
DENNIS W CARPENTER
OSKALOOSA #34

TERRY BUFFINGTON
MARSHALLTOWN #46
JOHN M BELL
TOLEDO #72
DONALD E MURTY
COLUMBUS JCT #100
CURTIS W FULLER
SIDNEY #128
ALAN G BRIGGS
PALMER #202
DUANE A SHOWERS
MARION #298
GLEN A WILKINSON
MICHAEL N MEESE
DONALD G DRTINA
ROCK VALLEY #321
DENNIS D GROENEWEG
ALLERTON #379
PATRICK J KELLY
DEXTER #419
BILL MILLER
LEONARD D SARGENT
WHITTEMORE #425
BRADLEY R ALBERTSON
WELLMAN #427
MELVIN W LISKA

National Convention

August 26 - September 1, 2022

Milwaukee, WI

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

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

Reservations must be made through Department Headquarters. All registration forms will be available in late March and the registration deadline is June 15, 2022.

Educator of the Year

www.ialegion.org/educator

One of the goals of The American Legion has always been to work in cooperation with schools who assist veterans, their families, and local communities. Some educators have gone above the call of duty and promoted the aims and purposes of The American Legion of Iowa.

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

The Department of Iowa developed a state program for recognizing educators in Iowa. Nomination brochures are available on our website at www.ialegion.org or by request from the Department office.

Nominations must be received by April 1, 2022.

Leadership School

Each year the Department of Iowa offers a leadership school to instruct and educate District and Department leaders and future leaders of The American Legion. The Leadership School provides an opportunity to develop leadership skills and meet other Legionnaires across the Department.

The Department Leadership School will be held June 3-5, 2022, at the Holiday Inn Downtown, Des Moines, Iowa. The Department will cover the cost of six (6) attendees per district, one of which should be the incoming District Commander. If you would like to be designated as an authorized attendee for your District, you are encouraged to attend your district Spring Conference. Endorsed candidates for Department and National offices are also invited to attend at Department expense. Candidates are in addition to the six allocated for each District.

Additional attendees from each District are allowed but will be required to pay for lodging. The Department will assist those attending at their own expense with finding roommates to help reduce cost of attendance. Those who wish to attend at their own expense should contact Department Headquarters to obtain registration materials or use the forms available on the Department website at www.ialegion.org.

Deadline for Leadership School registration is May 15, 2022.

Legionnaire of the Year

Art McLaughlin was the Post member who took on the ‘taken for granted jobs’ at the Post, doing the extra things to make activities in the Post and the community even better. He did the little repair jobs around the Post and was always checking to make sure everything was going well. He was happiest when he was actively working to support the Post and his rural community.

A soft-spoken leader, Art was respected throughout Mt. Auburn and The American Legion because of his ability to talk to people. He was a tireless membership worker who was constantly recruiting members for not only his home Post, but throughout Benton County, the Third District, and Iowa. A humble man, Art would be surprised to think that there is an award named in his honor. He was a quiet leader who did not work for recognition, but volunteered because it was the right thing to do.

His wife, Sherry McLaughlin, Past National Auxiliary President had this to say: “I once told someone that The American Legion was Art’s life.” The young Legionnaire replied, “No, The American Legion was his passion.”

The Department of Iowa asks that you nominate qualified Legionnaires for this award as a way of saying “Thank You” to a strong ‘blue cap’ Legionnaire.

Applications can be found online at www.ialegion.org/resources. Search under the Program Forms Tab. Applications are due to Dept. HQ June 15, 2022.

Dept. Convention

July 7-10, 2022 Des Moines

The Department Convention will be held July 7-10, 2022, at the Airport Holiday Inn Des Moines (6111 Fleur Dr., Des Moines, IA 50321). The purpose of the convention is for the election of Department Officers, ratification of the Department Constitution & By-

Laws, and for establishing the policies and positions of The American Legion. Reports will be given by the Department Commissions & Committees on American Legion programs and several awards will be presented.

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

Legion INDYCAR Coming to Iowa Speedway



The American Legion and The Department of Iowa will be cheering on the Legion sponsored No. 48 INDYCAR at the Iowa Speedway, July 22-24, 2022. Other activities will be hosted throughout the event. Full details will be available during the next Iowa Legionnaire.

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

Walk for Veterans

Department Commander Robert V. Waugh 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 Monday, August 15, 2022, at the Iowa State Fairgrounds. The parade begins at 11:00 am and participants are asked to be in the staging area between 7:00 am and 10:00 am.

Participants must register (free registration) with The American Legion of Iowa before July 10, 2022. The cost of a Walk for Veterans shirt is \$10.00. All walk participants must wear The American Legion Walk for Veterans shirt and must pre-register. All parade participants will receive free entry into the Iowa State Fair. Parking is not included.

Registration Forms, Information and Updates:

Information, instructions, and forms are available on our website or by 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 or view online at www.ialegion.org/wfv.



Iowa Foundation

Our last report to you in the Winter issue of the Iowa Legionnaire spoke of the growth in the finances of the Foundation, both from the generosity of our donors and the expertise of our financial advisers at Regions Bank. As anyone who has retirement funds invested, the last quarter has told a different story as far as investment growth is concerned.

Thanks to the investment policy of the Foundation that 60% of the principal is invested in fixed income securities, that principal has not suffered unduly. As of January 31, the Foundation's value had declined by 2.5% much less than many other investments. The expertise of our Advisers at Regions is also responsible for a smaller drop than might be expected.

The generosity that was spoken about in the Winter issue has continued and was recognized at Iowa's Midwinter Conference. We were privileged to announce the award of eight Eternal Flame Pins at the Friday session of the conference. We presented Supporter Plaques to Steve Malmquist and Steve and Kim Dixon, Sentinel Plaques to Thomas Hartsock and Dr. Dan McClure, Sterling Plaques to Ken Rochholz, Charlie, Scott & Colette Ford and Mel Goslar and a Statesman plaque to Ann Crawford. Statesman recognition also went to the Ninth District.

In several of those cases, additional donations have been made that moved the donors to the next level. We will present a Sentinel plaque to Steve and Kim Dixon at the Fifth District Conference and Sterling Plaques to Thomas Hartsock and Dr. Dan McClure at their District Conferences.

This is the time of the year when the generosity of all our donors really pays off. We have updated the grant application and posted it to the Iowa website. Along with that we will notify all of last year's applicants that we will be accepting applications for this year. The application deadline is April 15 and the annual meeting to make our grant decisions is May 13.

If you or someone you know works in a nonprofit area dealing with the three areas of emphasis of the Iowa Foundation, take a look at our application. Those areas are Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, Americanism/Children & Youth and Community Service. Regardless of whether an applicant is new to the Foundation or has received grants many times in the past, all applications will receive the same attention.

Remember the application deadline is April 13. Applications received after that will be rejected.

**Thank you for supporting the
Foundation and for your generosity.**

**Respectfully submitted,
Dave Rehbein, President**



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