



**National Executive Committeeman  
Jerry Sebben**

Fellow Legionnaires,

I want to thank all the District Commanders for the welcome and hospitality this fall at their Fall District Conferences. You made Alternate NEC Dennis and I feel very welcome.

The National Executive Committee passed a couple of

Resolutions at the fall meeting everyone should be aware of.

Resolution No. 1: Reaffirmation for a strong America - The American Legion reaffirms its unwavering support for the American way of life under the Constitution of the United States of America. The American Legion pledges support for the leaders of our government,

armed forces, and law enforcement agencies. The American Legion urges all Americans to stand united in their respect for officials at all levels of our government, military troops, and law enforcement officers.

Resolution No. 8: Restructure of Temporary Financial Assistance Statement of Policy - A qualifying veteran is defined as a member of the United States Armed Forces serving on federal orders current under Title 10 of the United States Code, inclusive of all components,

or any veteran possessing an up-to-date membership in The American Legion.

The American Legion continues to its efforts to protect the American Flag. Rep. Steve Womack, reintroduced a flag protection constitutional amendment, House Joint Resolution 61. Sen. Steve Daines introduced Senate Joint Resolution 46. The Senates Resolution is co-sponsored by our Iowa Senator Chuck Grassley. This legislation needs our help, please contact our elected offi-

cials to support and protect our Flag.

I hope everyone was able to take part in a Veterans Day observance at a school or parade. We as Veterans cannot do enough for our fellow Veterans, to recognize them for all of their sacrifice. The Title of Veteran is never given.

Mary and I want to wish all of our American Legion Family a Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas and a very prosperous New Year.

*For God and Country,*



**Department Chaplain  
Dr. Dan McClure**

Dear Comrades,

As a student of history, I tend to be curious about events and the causes of those events. I was once again reading about our early days as a baby country when I read the inscription on our Liberty Bell "Proclaim liberty throughout the land ..." which is a quote from the scriptures.

A new nation with an attitude would want fiery quotes

for itself and naturally would come from a solid source. Just after WWI we were a nation with an attitude and our early veterans formed the American Legion with a constitution to guide us into the future. Seeing similarities, I decided to pursue the idea that a free people might, just might possess an attitude derived from circumstances yes but also derived from their perspective of the circumstances.

Here is a quick view of

the preamble to our American Legion constitution with the idea that a stricter adherence to the ideas offered might go a long way to solve the issues we live with today.

1. Because of our God and our country, we unite with one another to pursue the following concepts.
2. We will defend our nation and its laws, not openly defy them and constantly tear down.
3. We will teach responsibility to serve our nation regularly, not to tear down our history, not deny our past, and not disregard our national

emblems.

4. We will try to promote peace not riots, violence in all forms and constant adversarial attitudes.

5. We will stand for liberty in all forms and try to perpetuate that liberty to our future.

Here's a perspective worth consideration. When I was young, people walked about without a lot of fear, especially at night. The rivalries that existed were worked out on the football field. The flag, the culture, the neighbors, the churches, the law helped unite us not divide us. It could be that way still but the source of such ideas is

slowly being drained from us as a people. I receive complaints regularly that we don't need faith and the like. I do. Our constitutions say we will help one another with those things. I need your help.

If my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and turn from their wicked ways and seek my face, then will I hear from Heaven and heal their land. The one, who helped us in the beginning as our people fought the most powerful nation on earth, stands ready to help us now. What say you?



**Department Service Officer  
Gary Carter**

Well the holiday season is just about upon

us with many things to be thankful for as well as having the opportunity to spend time with family and friends. In this day and age, we are so busy to stop and reflect of the blessings we have even though for some may not be significant to notice. There is the hope of better things to come with the spreading of all of us who serve that we matter

and do make a difference in lives everyday with our service. On our Veteran's Day, we had the pleasure with our supporters of KIOA Des Moines Radio Group, First Class Community Credit Union, Prairie Meadows, other local establishments, and many Legionnaires raised over \$110,000 in our event Vets for Valor. Thank you, Iowa, and the many people who donated for this cause of helping our veterans who may need some

help here in the State. This fund is solely used here in Iowa so every dollar that was raised makes it more valuable because of the donations received can further assist those in need. The many stories heard and the remembrance of those who have past and still currently serving was truly remarkable that the military families are truly strong and always available to help another member who might need a little help. We are a very proud and humble family of military individuals that take care of our own with dignity, honor and respect as we never forget the service we did. So,

thank you for the support you provided to help our own.

The office is now up to full speed with having the new service officers fully accredited to work claims. The New Year will have a bigger impact having everyone in the Service Office available to serve and be able to reach out more to those who may request assistance. It is very rewarding to see the daily changes of lives through the accomplishments of efforts given by the Service Office to help with claims and information regarding status of claims that is being provided.

Going into next year the

Service Office is still looking for applications from those who are making a difference in their own areas for the Val Likens award. We have not received any requests back yet and will need to have them available by Mid-Winter Conference to make a decision for award winner. I know there are some of you doing a great job because of the phone calls we receive.

From your Service Office, we deeply appreciate your continued support and we here Wish All of You the happiest of holidays and look forward to continuing serving all again next year.



**Sons of The American Legion  
Detachment Commander  
Gary Bonesteel**

Hello everyone.

I want to start off by telling what I heard from the reports I received from fall SAL Conference. All fall conferences went well. If you have never been to a fall or spring conference there is a lot

of good information given out.

I went to the Iowa Veterans Home and the Iowa City VA Medical Center for tours in the last couple of weeks. Both tours were very impressive. Both places are looking for volunteers. The Iowa City VA is looking for

drivers in the Cedar Rapids area and the Iowa Veterans Home is looking for people wherever needed. As we head into the Holiday season let's not forget to go out and volunteer. There are people less fortunate than we are. In December, the Veterans home will have their Christmas shopping for the residents. The dates are December 4<sup>th</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> 6<sup>th</sup>.

In the SAL we have two new Squadrons. I would like

to welcome Lake Park and Van Horne. We only need three more and I know we can get them. We are shooting for the Triple Nickle this year and I hope all Legion posts are on board with this plan. The SAL can bring in new life to help strengthen a post.

Now for the subject no one wants to talk about, membership. As I am writing this the membership tour is going

on I just opened the report I received Iowa is in 8<sup>th</sup> place in the Nation we are sitting at 52.189%. We have until December 31 to reach 100%. If not you will be considered delinquent. There is plenty of time to get your membership in before then.

If you or anyone has any questions please don't hesitate to call me or any Vice Commander for help.