



1st District Commander Robert Waugh

Greetings to all of my fellow Legionnaires of the "GREAT 1st DISTRICT". It has been a very rewarding year so far as your district commander. I want to thank all of you who helped me through my first fall conference and everyone that attended in Marengo. I hope everyone enjoyed it.

Thanks to Sam Slaymaker and his fellow legionnaires and the auxiliary unit for the great hospitality and the wonderful meal we received. It was absolutely outstanding. I was able to attend the very deserving appreciation dinner that Marengo Post #76 hosted for Sam and Carol for all their continued years of support at the Post and Unit. It was a great evening. Thank You Sam and Carol.

I attended the fall meetings in Indianapolis for the Americanism Commission. It is always a good time to see what is going on at the national level and to meet new friends to share ideas.

Thanksgiving will have come and gone before you receive this, but I hope all had a wonderful day and kept our fellow

Veteran men and women in their thoughts and prayers, especially those who are serving and couldn't be with family and friends.

With the Holiday season upon us, I know everyone will be very busy. Take time to enjoy family and friends and share with your communities the greatness of the American Legion Family.

Don't forget that local Oratoricals must be complete by December 17, county by January 7 and District by January 14. I know we have had very little luck in promoting this in our district and is a little late to really push on it now. But this is one great program The American Legion promotes and gives students a great opportunity to earn a lot of scholarship funds. We need to get into our schools and push hard for all the wonderful programs we have for our youth.

Another key objective is to get your Iowa Hawkeye Boys State finished up and get that sent in so they know who is attending. There is a lot of time and effort that goes into this and we need to help by doing our part early so they can do their planning and work on this!

Do some planning ahead and do your best to attend the Mid-Winter Conference in Des Moines on February 8 thru 11. If you can't make it but only one day, come up early on the 10th and plan to have a great day with friends

and make some new ones. If you have never attended one, you're missing out on knowing what The American Legion is all about. You may be surprised at what you find out and may learn from all that is there.

Finally, to all the Post's in my district who did not send in the Post Officers Report that was in your membership packets back in June, please fill them out and send to Department Headquarters. Anyone wishing to reach me may do so by calling (641)919-0042, email me at bobwaugh89@gmail.com or snail mail at 15433 105th RD, Libertyville, IA 52567. I would appreciate all post commanders and adjutants to text, email, or mail me a way of contacting them or a contact for your post.

Last but not least, Recruit-Renew-Retain. I will say no more for everyone knows what I'm talking about. For all those who have been working hard at this I give you my greatest Thanks. Those of you who haven't, please put a little more effort and attempt to instill some extra pride into those members who have not yet renewed.

Maybe even encourage a Paid-Up-for-Life membership. It couldn't go to support a better organization and your post adjutants and membership chair will love you for it. Have a Wonderful Holiday Season and I look forward to seeing everyone in Des Moines.

For God and Country



2nd District Commander Dick Hogan

Season's Greetings to all the Great 2nd District Family.

We've done well, but still have much to do in a short time. I'd like the 2nd District to hit 100 percent of its goal by Jan. 1, 2018. We are about 80 percent there. It can be done. Work those who have not renewed, members in the 729 holding post, and find new members. If you have a college or community college in town, check there for veterans and sign them up. Hit the goal and I'll try not to mention membership again - until next year.

I've visited many posts in the six counties and hope to do more. Drove 1,200 miles in September. October was a bit slower, but on the road a lot again in November.

Latest visits were to the Eldridge Post for a Veterans Honor dinner, and Anamosa for the National Vice Commander Byron Callies lone visit to our district during his Iowa membership tour. About 30 Legionnaires greeted

Callies at Anamosa. Great company and food at Eldridge, which seems to be an up and coming post. Eldridge and Anamosa hope to soon have new Auxiliary units going, and that's great.

Our revitalization efforts remain a work in progress. The one for Cedar Rapids Post 727 in early September, became a Linn County effort with only about 30 transfers from Post 729 to various posts. We had plenty of help and about 200 people to call, but the timing was poor - 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on a Tuesday. Many were not home and some phone numbers were no longer in service. Calling from about 4 to 8 p.m. would have been better.

Davenport Post 26 politely declined our offer and said they would try to increase their efforts.

Adjutant Bill Goodman and I spent more than two hours in late October at the Camanche Post. We made no calls. We spent the time telling members who attended that they first need stronger leadership in place and give the post a positive direction toward the Legion's four pillars. They said they would try hard to do that. We also left them a 729 list to call if they wanted to try.

Please make plans to attend the Mid-Winter Conference,

February 9-11, in Des Moines. More educational classes will be offered. Check the District Web site for more information.

The 2nd District Spring Conference will be at Farley Memorial Hall, 301 First St. NW, Farley, on April 14, 2018. A hospitality event may be at the Farley Post the night of April 13.

Only 10 rooms at each of two hotels are blocked off for the conference. Reservations should be made by February 13. When calling, tell them you are with the American Legion District Meeting group.

The hotels are: Comfort Inn: 563-875-7700, rate is \$99.00; Super Eight: 563-875-8885, rate is \$80.00 (need 48 hr. cancellation period).

The noon April 14 banquet includes: Smoked Pork Chop or Chicken Breast, mashed potatoes/gravy, coleslaw, green beans, roll, coffee, milk, or lemonade. Cost - \$14.00/ticket, according to Helen Hildebrand, of Farley, Iowa 2nd District Auxiliary president.

Again, check the district Web site for that and other important information.

For God and Country,



3rd District Commander Bob Wenger

Greetings to the Great Third District

We are in the midst of fall, and soon winter will be returning. All of us need to take advantage of the fall weather and get membership for the year finished. Our growth goal for the year is 5,819 members which should be an achievable number if everyone works together. The District has been in 3rd place for much of the year. We are capable of obtaining 1st.

There were many Veterans Day suppers and programs at

our local schools. I would hope that your Legion Post participated in at least one event. Our presence in the public is very important, especially at the schools. Educating our students at a younger age results in a lasting impression in what The American Legion is all about.

I have had the opportunity to attend two dedications in Benton County. The first was the Benton County Freedom Rock in Shellsburg, and the second was Norway-Watkins Veterans Memorial in Norway.

Attendance from the public was unbelievable at both events. Both were in small communities and both were built with the labor of love and donations from the area, no large corporation was involved. I think about this and the answer is these smaller towns appreciate the Veterans and the objectives we try to accomplish. The local Legion

Post is still the main gathering place for many community events. As Veterans and the American Legion Family, we must strive to maintain a Legion Post in every small town.

As I write this article, we are conducting The National Vice Commander membership tour. I hope your post made an effort to visit one of the three stops within the 3rd District.

When conducting a community service event in your town, please get the information to 3rd District Community Service chairman Ron Busch ironbusch@hotmail.com. This will allow Ron to present a very respectable report at the Spring Conference.

Wishing all a Happy Thanksgiving & a Merry Christmas, be safe in your travels.

For God and Country



4th District Commander Bob Onken

Greetings,

By the time you see this, fall conference will have already taken place. Thank you to everyone for making this a very successful conference and thanks goes to West Union for hosting our conference.

Next up will be Midwinter at Des Moines Holiday Inn Airport Feb. 9 -11, 2018. There will be many schools and a lot of information at this conference. It would be worth your time to come for even one day.

Also, next will be the Oratorical Contests. These contests will be in December and January.

Boys State, please note you need to have your fees paid before January 1st to get the discount price.

Thanks to my District Vice Commanders for contacting the Posts that have not yet turned in your officers list to Department Headquarters. Please, these need to be

sent in even if your officers do not change, we need to be 100% compliant with this task.

Hopefully by the time you are reading this, you have paid your membership dues. We all need to get these paid. Here's an idea, if you do not know what to get your significant other for Christmas, why not pay for each other's dues. Problem solved.

Until next time may you and your family have a very good Christmas and Happy New Year!

Thank you to all!