



1st District Commander Robert Waugh

I don't know for sure where the summer has gone but it is coming to a close fast. It has been a very busy one and I have enjoyed several visits to area Posts and some of the summer fundraisers.

Fall is upon us and so it goes, harvest is just around the corner. Let me remind you that now is a good time to start "harvesting" new members, hanging on to current members and bring back others that

may have slipped out the back door a year or two ago.

Recruit - Renew - Retain is our Department Commander's charge this year. If we all put our best foot forward and work at this we can stop the slide and attain that 100% membership or even better! I don't want to preach to the choir so I won't hammer on this any longer but it is possible and if I or any Vice Commanders, membership Chair or



2nd District Commander Dick Hogan

Hello 2nd District Legion Family. Hope everyone is having a great summer. It has gone fast. About time to think of Fall. With that season, comes Fall District Conferences. The 2nd District's Fall Conference at Marion will be extra special. It starts at 5:30 p.m. Sept. 22, at Marion Post 298, with a combination reception/hospitality

event. The 2nd District has the honor this year of having both The American Legion Department Commander, Mike Etzel of Marion, and Vickie Klinkhammer of Dubuque. Join the reception to congratulate them and welcome them "home." Refreshments and snacks will be available. Some refreshments are on the house, some for sale.

The Saturday Conference has the



3rd District Commander Bob Wenger

It has been very busy since Department Convention. Many Department officers and District commanders attended the National Membership Workshop in Indianapolis held the end of July. The National staff hosted an outstanding workshop and break-out sessions.

District Fall Conference will be October 21. Legion will meet at Conrad American Legion Post #681; Auxiliary and banquet will be at Beaman Memorial Hall. Hospitality will be held on Friday, October 20, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Conrad Legion Post. As a District, we are making a few changes this year, and hopefully this will help boost



4th District Commander Bob Onken

Greetings To Fourth District,

I have been elected your Fourth District Commander for 2017-2018. Your three area Vice Commanders are: Brandon Parcel, 641-832-9502,

Zone 1, (Cerro Gordo, Floyd, Howard, Mitchell, and Worth counties); Dan Boberg, 563-419-0459, Zone 2, (Allamakee, Chickasaw, Fayette, and Winneshiek counties); and, Fritz Kies, 319-493-1848, Zone 3,



5th District Commander Darrin Alderson

Greetings Fifth District,

I'm looking forward to the upcoming year as commander. We finished up with the National Membership workshop and we have a lot of work ahead of us. Your Vice Commanders will be relaying your Post membership targets for 2018.

As your new commander, it is my goal to visit each Post to learn how the District can help your Post, and

share the District's strategic plan over the course of the year.

The programs of The American Legion are recruiting tools that we need to use. Does this mean we need to do all of the programs? No. It just means that we need to find the ones that best suit the needs of your community.

The Fifth District has had two very talented oratorical contestants with Makenna Little, in 2016, from

any fellow Legionnaires can be of assistance, do not hesitate to call.

Fall Conference will be held at the Legion Post #76 in Marengo on October 28, 2017, located at 1240 W. Lafayette Ave. They will also host a hospitality on Friday, October 27, from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. The Legion will meet at the Post on Saturday, with registration starting at 8 a.m. and meeting at 9 a.m. The Auxiliary will meet at the First Presbyterian Church at 902 Marengo Ave. Anyone wanting a room may call Sudbury Court Motel and RV Park, 2211 Hwy 6 Trl., or phone 319-642-5411.

I hope to see some new faces

along with the familiar ones, in Marengo. Come out and enjoy a day of comradery with fellow Legionnaires and maybe learn a few things about The American Legion you didn't know or just refresh your memory on the great programs we sponsor and support throughout the year.

I am looking forward to a very fruitful year and meeting everyone. I want to help each and every Post, which I can schedule in, and help make a difference to grow this great organization we all belong to.

In closing I want to mention something that National Commander Schmidt hit on while

we were at National Headquarters in July. He had a video of George Jones' "Who's Going to Fill Their Shoes?" It is all very well put into perspective when we ask *ourselves* this very question. Who IS going to fill our shoes? It is for each and every one of us to answer that and find someone to do that very thing, after all, if we don't find that person, who is going to carry the legacy of The American Legion forward?

Together in great service to our fellow veterans and communities . .

For God and Country

Legion meeting at Post 298, 625 31st. St., Marion. The Auxiliary will meet at the Marion Heritage Center in downtown Marion. The noon banquet will be at the Post. Cost is \$14. Registration deadline is Sept. 11. More information on the entire event and where to send your reservations is available on the 2nd District Web Site under Call to Conference. We have important business to discuss, so please come.

I gotta mention membership, or face untold punishment. This is the year we MUST stop the slide. The District has lost about a thousand

members over the past few years. The Department goal is 45,000, down from 47,000 last year. Let's hit at least that old goal of 47,000.

Commander Etzel's theme this year is "Recruit-Renew-Retain." We need to Recruit new members, hopefully many younger people; Renew those we already have; and Retain them all. For those who do not renew, call them and find out why. Perhaps you can resolve the situation and get many of them back into the Legion.

The 2nd District will also attempt to revitalize at least three

posts. Those preparations are underway and nearly finalized. Much of that effort will concentrate on transferring people in the 2nd District who are members of Post 729, a holding post. All that needs to be done is to call these people and see if they will join a local post. They can consent over the phone and you have a new member that counts toward your goal - after the proper paperwork is done and filed.

So, please, get out there and go get 'em!

For God and Country

attendance at conferences. Dress will be casual: Legion polo shirt and slacks with proper cover. Nicole Clapp polo shirt is acceptable. You may still wear sport coat and tie if you so desire. One other change will be a consent agenda for commission reports. These reports will be in a packet you receive at registration. A request from the floor will be required if any individual report is to be read. You will be notified in the Call to Conference letter (mailed on or about September 1), if your report will be read or mailed to

District Commander. The intent of this format is to conclude District business earlier, and dedicate part of the afternoon session to membership training and revitalization.

Post Officer installations have kept me on the move. Regardless if it is short vs. long form, it is an important task to be completed. I thank all of you for the invites.

The 2017 American Legion Hawkeye Boys State Governor is Aaron Havens, from Grundy Center High School. District officers, as well as Post #349 of Grundy Center,

will be making a formal presentation of the plaque at the high school in the near future.

Please do not sit on any membership. Try and mail to Department every two weeks or sooner. It would be nice to witness a large membership turn-in at Fall Conference. All of your District officers are trying hard to turn the declining membership around. We need your assistance.

For God and Country

(Buchanan, Clayton, and Delaware counties). We are here to serve you, the members. If you have questions in membership or other business for your Post, we are here to help. If we do not have the answer, we will point you in the right direction.

Fall District Conference is October 21, in West Union. The Auxiliary will be at the Legion Post and the Legionnaires will be in the

church by the Legion Post. For those who do not know, we have trimmed the meeting to half a day. We still get a lot of information, but more condensed. If you have not been to a District Conference, I urge you to come and try one. Coffee and rolls are on at 8 a.m. Information for the coming year will be given out and people there to answer your questions.

I hope to get around to as many Posts this year as possible.

Membership - We all have our way of taking care of this. My goal for this year is to have all membership done **by Christmas!** We can not get this done without the help of each member. Thank You for helping meet this goal and get the job done!

For God and Country

Post 34 of Oskaloosa, and Caleb Gipple, Department champion in 2017. Caleb was representing Post #446 of New Sharon, and the great Fifth District. These programs will help recruit new members to our Posts, and keep The American Legion active in your community.

Department Commander Mike Etzel's theme is "Recruit Renew Retain." Post commanders and Post adjutants should be registering to use the myLegion.org to help assist in your membership drive. The Post 729 members are just a small part of the membership equation, but a very valuable tool. Your vice

commanders should also be relaying information about key membership target dates that we really need to reach in order to be successful.

District meetings are being scheduled and we would like to see all Post commanders attend at least one of the two district conferences this year. This is a great way to interact with other Posts and see what is working for them. Another benefit in attending is your chance to let the District officers know about issues your Post is facing, so the District leadership can help. We are in this membership battle

together. Don't feel you're alone.

We are looking at developing Post officer training for new officers to help with Post functions. The senior leaders of the Post are great mentors and a great way to carry the legacy forward.

Our Fall Conference is scheduled for October 28, at Post #34 in Oskaloosa; the Spring Conference will be March 24, at Post #111 in Newton.

Please remember our service men and women, past and present.

For God and Country