



5th District Commander
Darrin Alderson

Greetings Fifth District,

Fall conference is in the books and the planning for Midwinter has begun. We really appreciate everyone who attended the conference and hope everyone enjoyed it. The spring conference will be March 24 at Post 111 in Newton.

The fall conference was very productive as we accomplished all of the goals for this meeting. We have put together our timeline and our outline for the strategic plan for our District. We also have filled the open Legion Riders committee chairman spot. Jay Guild from Post 34 has filled this spot as the Legion Riders chairman for the District.

Membership targets are going good but this doesn't mean we can relax just yet. As a district, we are progressing along but we need to continue pushing to get the renewals in so we can focus on recruiting new members. The American Legion is fast approaching the centennial year. It would be great if we could exceed our membership goals this year and years to come. All

from the committees so we have time for training sessions after lunch. During the fall conference we conducted a training on Mylegion.org. The tools available to each post to assist with membership renewal and recruitment and Consolidated Post Reports (CPR) were highlighted.



6th District Commander
Brent Spear

Hello my fellow legionnaires.

If you were unable to attend the Fall Conference held in Liberty Center you missed out on a great conference. I would like to highlight some of the changes to the district conference. First dress code is business casual khakis and a polo are fine no suit and tie required! Second we are attempting to shorten the reports

were very open and honest even though some of the comments weren't pretty. For instance: of a post membership about 20% were considered active-6% attended meetings-less than half of the posts had regular monthly meetings-about half had reliable places to meet-75% had very little income-75% do not have all post offices filled-records are very poorly kept and not available in many cases-most don't have any idea what their By-Laws say or where they are-many reports are not filed timely, if at all-about one third participate in Boys State-maybe 10% participate in Oratorical contests. Many added factual comments, which were alarming.



7th District Commander
Dean Olson

They say time flies when you're having fun. We must be having a lot of fun.

When I accepted the 7th District Commanders job, I pledged to use my knowledge and experience to help the Legion at the Post and District level first. For many years I have read the Iowa Legionnaire from front to back studying all of the comments made. You find lots of theory, plans, hopes and goals. How's this working out for us? We have some problems and before we can fix them we have to own them. We are looking for reasons, not excuses. To this end we sent a questionnaire to all of the posts in the 7th District. We were told that out of the 69 posts, we might get 6 or 7 returned. To date, we have 42. Those responding

Scholarship contest. How about those Eagle Scouts? I hope we can have a lot of representation from these nominations from the 8th District!



8th District Commander
Marvin Carr

Hello 8th District Legionnaires!

With Fall almost behind us and Winter just right around the corner, have you gotten these items turned in? Law Enforcement and

Firefighter of the Year nominations, Boys State reservations, 5th Grade Flag Essay contest and High School Oratorical



9th District Commander
Pete Madsen

Greetings again to all in the 9th District.

A lot of things have happened since the last newsletter and some even coming up. I thought we had a very successful Fall Conference in Ida Grove this past September and had a great turn out. I'd like to thank the Ida Grove Post and their Legion Auxiliary for hosting the event and for the great hospitality the night before. I would also like to thank our guests for coming to our conference and speaking to our group. I hope everyone had

a wonderful Veterans Day and had a chance to get together to celebrate. I enjoy Veterans Day very much, to get together with other veterans to share stories or just to listen. Veterans Day for my family and I was a little different this year, going out onto the field to get honored at an Iowa State football game in front of about 60,000 people will be remembered and cherished for the rest of my life. I would like to thank the Holstein, Iowa Post 225 for that honor. Membership rally Saturday, November 18, is in Van Meter, IA and will be turning in as many memberships as we can. Great job to all the posts for getting membership in this year, for this was the first year in a few years that we made target of 60 percent on the first target date, great job and keep it up. I am hoping that we do it again on the 18th in Van Meter. I would like everyone to start thinking about Mid-Winter

post should be using the MyLegion.org as a valuable tool in their membership needs. We do have three Post in our District that have reach 100% and those post are Post 485 Delta, Post 103 Leon, and Post 424 Keota. Good job on getting your memberships in by the first target date.

It's been a very productive year on Capitol Hill as the Legion has passed the coin bill for our centennial year. Be looking for ways you can order the new commemorative coin as this will really help in raising money for efforts in Veterans advocacy in the upcoming years. The District Facebook page is doing well and we hope to get more post using this tool to get the events out there for everyone to see. We would like to see more post with Facebook pages or websites to show the communities what we are doing.

Mid-winter conference is February 9 - 11 and everyone should plan to attend at least one day of this conference. There is a lot to be gained by attending Midwinter conference. This is a time to see what other posts are doing and an opportunity to make new friends and network. The department Oratorical Contest will take place on February 11 and is worth watching. With that there are several dates coming up for these contest as well as post awards. I really hope that at least one member from every post would attend one day of Mid-Winter conference as

the programs fair is a great opportunity to learn more about our programs. This also provides an opportunity to ask questions about the programs and to gather information to take back to your posts. The Leadership team is working hard to provide valuable training for all our legionnaires. This is also your time to relay issues that you are having at your post as your District will hold Mid-Winter District caucuses where you will get to hear from candidates for Department Commander as well as Vice Commanders. Hope to see you there.

In closing I hope that everyone had a good holiday season and we can focus on finishing the second half of the year on a positive note. I'm very grateful to have the opportunity to meet so many great Legionnaires and really look forward to meeting many more this second half of the year. I have been working on getting training materials for any post that would like to use them. One of the items is post training DVD that post can check out from me or the other great tool that you can use is the new American Legion Boot Camp training from www.legion.org. This is a free tool and encourage all legion members to take this course. You will more about the American Legion and its history.

*Thank you for the opportunity.
For God and Country*

or the veterans home they are not forgotten by the post. Make sure they are a part of any post activity that you have planned. I would like to encourage anyone that may be interested in running for a district officer position to get working on your nomination paperwork now. If you have any question about the duties and time commitments, please contact me or any of the District Vice Commanders as we travel around to your post meetings.

The District officers are here to support the posts within the 6th District if you would like us to attend a meeting or a function at your post please contact me at mfd656@yahoo.com. We will attend as many as we are able to fit in our schedules.

members while the long term goal should be to recruit new members. Remember this is every member of the Legion's job to contribute, not just one or two people.

On the brighter side, we have been very well received by many posts we have contacted and some including Post 437, which I am also Commander of, are over 100% and will have several more soon. One post in our District, which has always been up to quota but only has 1 or 2 members renewed caught my eye. I called and talked to his wife who explained that with the problems encountered with the harvest, delivery, break downs of equipment, etc., that her husband was working 14 - 15 hours a day. I asked if she would just mention to him that there were probably dues that had come in that needed to be forwarded. She thought that under the circumstances, it would be better if I did that. I definitely understand her point!

We hope you all take the time to enjoy and appreciate the holidays.

Still Serving "For God and Country"

As 2017 is winding down, so is our membership. For the first time we have under 2 million legionnaires. My question to you is, when will we stop the slide? Well, I hope it is now! I would like to be the first district to STOP the slide, but I can't do it alone. I will need each one of you to help me to help OUR Posts, OUR communities and OUR Veterans! Stronger we are in membership, louder OUR voice is heard in OUR state capital and in Washington. We need to stay strong in OUR membership so that way we can fight for OUR benefits! So, will you help me to help you to help OUR Veterans and OUR communities?

Conference, February 9,10, and 11, as well. It would be nice to have a great turn out from the 9th District for our caucus on Saturday. Spring Conference will be held April 14, but as of right now, we do not have a hosting post. Once we obtain that information, we will be getting that out to everyone. I would like all post to start thinking of your nominees that you will be sending to Boys State, it comes quicker than you think. I would like to thank all of the posts and counties that have invited me to your events so far this year. Some have even been on the same days, but will eventually be getting around to see everyone. If there are matters that can't wait till I get to you, feel free to give me a call if need be (712-221-8801). Finally, I just want to thank all American Legion members, Auxiliary, Sons of the Legion, and Legion Riders for all that you do.

For God and Country,