



2017 Department Legion Baseball Champions: Johnston Post #728!



The 2017 American Legion of Iowa Department Legion Baseball tournament was held May 6-7, at Dyersville and Cascade, hosted by Dubuque County American Legion. In the final championship game, Johnston Post #728 defeated the 2016 championship team, with a score of 9 to 3. Championship teams from six of Iowa's nine Districts included: Dubuque County, Johnston, Marion, Hiawatha, Carroll County, Ottumwa, and Ames.

Richard G. Liewer American Legion Post #728 of Johnston, in Iowa's Sixth District, will now represent Iowa at the National Regionals in Dickinson, North Dakota.



Above, Richard G. Liewer American Legion Post #728 of Johnston, in Iowa's Sixth District, will represent Iowa in The American Legion Central Plains Regional tournament, scheduled for August 2-6, in Dickinson, North Dakota. Team members pictured above with their state trophy include: Reece Anderson, Drew Beazley, Natae Blanchard, Nathan Buckkallew, John Burger, Keaton Duckett, Derek Hackman, Noah Janssen, Peter Johnson, Caleb Kuenen, Sean Meyer, Andrew Nord, Evan Salmon, Adam Stiles, Jackson Vines, Peyton Williams, Nick Yeast, and Andrew Zimmerman. Team Manager for the Johnston Dragons is Michael Barta, with head coach Griffin Hatten (not pictured).



Above, left, 72-year Legion member, Ade Kurt, of Cascade American Legion Post #528, continues to enjoy American Legion baseball, just as much as when he played before serving in World War II. Ade has been instrumental in organizing American Legion baseball for his Post, county, and community since 1945. Above, right, Steve, Don, and Tim Proctor present the Earl H. and Esther J. Proctor MVP Award to catcher, Derek Hackman, a senior at Johnston High School. The Proctor brothers have attended every American Legion of Iowa baseball tournament since 1967.



The American Legion Legacy Scholarship Run

Online registration for the 2017 American Legion Legacy Run went live March 21. To register or for more information, go to <https://www.legion.org/riders/> registration. This year's ride will leave Fort Dodge, Kansas, on August 12, and travel west to Reno, Nevada – site for the 2017 American Legion National Convention. The cross-country motorcycle ride raises money for The American Legion Legacy Fund, which provides college money for the children of U.S. military personnel killed on active duty on or after Sept. 11, 2001, as well as the children of post-9/11 veterans with a combined VA disability rating of 50-percent or higher.

Last year's Legacy Run raised more than \$1 million for the second straight year. In 11 years, the ride has raised more than \$7 million.

Those registering online will be provided with a copy of their registration and release form, as well as a confirmation email.

books and patches.

Because of the distance needing to be covered and the geography of the area along this year's Legacy Run, mid-day stops cannot be planned for Legion posts or other large venues that provide food or purchase on-site. Participants are encouraged to purchase lunches during registration; those who do not pre-purchase the lunches will be expected to bring their own food each day and safely transport it.

Meals must be ordered in advance of departure. There will be no food available for purchase on stops, and there will be neither time nor available food outlets for riders to leave the group to find and eat lunch on their own each day. Those who do not sign up for lunches during registration but later decide to add them can do so via LegacyRun2017@gmail.com. Check back at www.legion.org/ riders for updated route information and hotel suggestions within the next few weeks.



Those preferring to print out and mail a registration form with a check or money order can send so. A downloadable registration form will be available soon on the national website at www.legion.org. Registration packets and commemorative patches are expected to be mailed out in early August. To pre-order Legacy Run T-shirts, go to the national website. These orders will be shipped directly from Emblem Sales.

Registration is open to passengers and riders, as well as to non-riding supporters. Non-riding supporters who register for \$25 or more will receive the full registration package with map

Walk for Veterans

Department Commander Ken Rochholz will lead American Legion family members and friends in an Awareness Walk for Veterans. The purpose of the walk is to raise public attention for important issues facing veterans and their families. We also want to raise awareness for The American Legion and our programs.

Proceeds from Walk for Veterans will help support The American Legion, Department of Iowa, Service Office. Our Service Office assists veterans and their families in obtaining the VA benefits and compensation they have earned through military service.

The American Legion Walk for Veterans will be at the Veterans Parade at the Iowa State Fair on August 14, 2017, at the Iowa State Fairgrounds. The parade begins at 11:00 am and participants are asked to be in the staging area before 10:00 am.

Participants must register with The American Legion of Iowa before July 23, 2017. Registration fee is \$10.00. The cost of a Walk for Veterans shirt & commemorative pin 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.

Veterans Parade Entries: We know many of you already participate in the Veterans Day Parade at the Iowa State Fair. If your Post, Unit, Squadron, or Chapter is planning to enter a color guard, float, vehicle, trailer, motorcycle, or other entry; you may still put those entries in the parade. Follow the normal registration procedures with the Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs. If you would like to receive and wear the Walk for Veterans shirt and pin, you may also register with The American Legion of Iowa to receive those items. We encourage any American Legion family entry into the parade to also register as a walk participant to show our unity as an organization.

Who should walk: Members of The American Legion Family: The American Legion, the American Legion Auxiliary, and Sons of The American Legion are encouraged to participate. We also invite anyone to join us who supports veterans and The American Legion.

Invite those who benefit from the programs and services of The American Legion Family: American Legion Boys State and American Legion Auxiliary Girls State alumni, Oratorical Contest participants, American Legion Baseball teams, Junior Shooting Sports teams, 5th Grade Flag Essay participants, scholarship recipients, Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts, and any other youth groups supported by the programs of your Post, Unit or Squadron should be invited.

We encourage you to invite other members of your community. Fire departments, law enforcement, parks and recreation, little league, soccer teams, 4H, or any other community members who are supported by or provide support to American Legion Family programs should be encouraged to participate.

Marketing our organization: We would like to see a large turnout for the walk. Picture hundreds of people walking in the veterans' parade wearing matching yellow t-shirts, all united for The American Legion Family. Not only does it create awareness for our organization during the parade, but it provides us an opportunity to tell our story all day long at the Iowa State Fair. All day people will be seeing shirts with The American Legion name and emblem. All day they will be asking what all those yellow shirts are doing at the State Fair. Every time someone asks why we are there, it gives us an opportunity to tell the story of The American Legion family.

Registration and Fees: All participants must pre-register and must wear The American Legion Walk for Veterans shirt. Shirts purchased from previous year may be worn. The registration fee is \$10.00 for all participants. The cost for a Walk for Veterans shirt & pin is \$10.00. All parade participants will receive free entry into the Iowa State Fair. State Fair parking is not included.

Registration Form: Complete the registration form and submit with \$10.00 registration fee for each participant and \$10.00 for each shirt purchase to: **The American Legion of Iowa, 720 Lyon Street, Des Moines, IA 50309.** Registration fee may be paid by check or credit card. Please do not send cash in the mail.

Packet Delivery: Walk packets will be available for pickup at The American Legion of Iowa Department Convention or the Department office. Packets not picked up will be mailed to participants at the end of July. Packets will include day of walk information and shirt & pin orders.

Registration Forms and Information: Information, instructions, forms, and online registration are available at www.ialegion.org. For more information please contact The American Legion of Iowa by phone at 800-365-8387 or by email at kate@ialegion.org.