

Department Membership

Don Swan

As I write this report today it is Wednesday the third day of our six-day National Vice-Commanders Membership Tour. Nation Vice-Commander (NVC) Byron Callies, National Executive Committeeman (NEC) Jerry Sebben, Alternate NEC Dennis Soppe, Department Commander Mike Etzel and I visited four Posts daily starting with Ankeny Post 42 on Monday morning and visiting Britt Post 315 this evening. We collected membership offerings at each Post we stopped at along the way. At each stop we also had time for the NVC, NEC or Commander to field questions from Legionnaires on topics that were important to them. Topics as diverse as VA Hospital care and eligibility to how to apply for VA benefits at the American Legion Service offices. We traveled and sampled fine cuisine everywhere we stopped. This was a great experience and gave us some insight into what issues are important to Legionnaires throughout Iowa.

We were afforded amazing hospitality all along our route and I have nothing but great respect for all that you do at the Posts. I also wish to thank everyone that participated with us during our travels. Without you we would be lost, you are the backbone that is keeping us strong throughout the State. Please continue your great work bringing in membership. I hope that all of you would consider trying to recruit at least one new member this year. My goal is for us to stop the decline in membership and to start the process of rebuilding. Have a great Holiday Season this year!

For God and Country,

Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA) Changes

The National Executive Committee approved changes to the policy structure of the Temporary Financial Assistance program to more closely adhere to the objectives of both the program and The American Legion. The major changes approved in resolution #8 at the NEC meeting are summarized as: 1) A single one-time non-repayable TFA grant of up to \$1,500 will be permitted and 2) A qualifying veteran is defined as a member of the US Armed Forces serving under Title 10 orders or any veteran possessing an up-to-date membership in The American Legion.

The full text of the resolution is available in the digital archive at www.legion.org and should be read for a full explanation.

District Membership Standings

Standing	District	2018 Growth Goal	Current Membership	Percentage
1st	First	4,413	3,487	79.02
2nd	Eighth	4,350	3,434	78.94
3rd	Second	6,998	5,510	78.74
4th	Ninth	5,863	4,509	76.91
5th	Third	5,819	4,448	76.44
6th	Fifth	3,210	2,400	74.77
7th	Fourth	4,507	3,353	74.40
8th	Sixth	5,391	3,962	73.49
9th	Seventh	3,898	2,727	69.96
Headquarters Post 729			551	501
Department Totals		45,000	34,331	76.29

Marcia's Membership Memos

I am sure everyone is starting to gear up for the holiday season and that will be in the forefront of your minds right now, but there is still much to be done to get memberships renewed by December 31. The third renewal notice has gone out to the members that still need to renew, but it is time for contacting unpaid members whether it be by phone or by going and making personal contact. There are many veterans out there that may be alone and would really appreciate a visit from a post member to collect their dues and give them their card and just spend a few minutes with them so that they know the post cares about their members.

When sending membership in to Department, remember to include a 2-part card for each member you are paying for and if it is a handwritten card it needs to be filled out on both sections completely with ID # if available, Name, complete address. Remember – if a member pays online or pays for a PUFL membership online, you need to keep the 2-part card for the posts records, don't send them to Department.

If your post uses myLegion.org, there are several new tools available for your use. If you have questions about any of these new tools and reports, feel free to contact me here at Department Headquarters for assistance. If you are interested in learning more about myLegion.org be sure to attend the Mid-Winter conference in February as there will be a class on Saturday afternoon to help you.

I hope you all have a wonderful holiday season and a joyous new year. Hope to see all of you at the Mid-Winter Conference in February. Keep the membership coming! Happy Holidays!

Marcia Hoch
Executive Secretary/Membership Secretary

Val Likens Award Nominations

Valore (Val) Likens, distinguished himself as the Department Service Officer for many years. Upon news of his retirement in 1985, Iowa Veterans Home Deputy Director Al McNaughton, recommended an award be named after Likens, as a reminder of all the good that service officers do for the veterans of Iowa. The Department Executive Committee officially passed the motion in July 1986.

Nomination Forms for the Val Likens Post Service Officer Award are available on the Department website or by request from the Department office. Please return the completed nomination by January 30, in time for judging at Mid-Winter Conference. Send nominations to: Iowa American Legion Service Office, Federal Building, Room 561, 210 Walnut St., Des Moines, IA 50309

Oratorical Contest Deadlines

The first deadline for participation in the 2018 Oratorical Contest is upon us. Post contests must be completed by December 17 with county contests to be held between December 18 and January 7.

It is not too late to contact your high school to identify potential contestants but don't wait any longer. Contestants need time to write their presentation and prepare for the contest.

Calendar of Activities

American Legion Auxiliary - Department of Iowa

DECEMBER

- 1 Girls State Registration Forms & Check (\$400) from Units due to Department Office
- 25-26 Christmas – Department Office closed

JANUARY 2018

- 1 New Year's Day – Department Office closed
- 15 Martin Luther King Day – Department Office closed
- 31 Membership is delinquent – (loss of continuous years if turned in after this date to the National Office)

FEBRUARY

- 9-11 Mid-Winter Conference, Airport Holiday Inn, Des Moines
- 19 Presidents' Day – Department Office closed

MARCH

- 15 National Scholarship Applications are due in the Dept Ofc