



**Department Membership  
Mike Etzel, Chairman**

Greetings Fellow Legionnaires,

I am writing this report some 4 weeks before you will see it and I know the numbers will change by then, so please look at the Departments report for the most accurate figures.

I would first like to say thank you to everyone for their very hard work in reaching the membership totals they have. Department is very near, or maybe even above, 95% and that is amazing. We have constantly placed in the top 15 Nationally, most of this past year we were holding 5<sup>th</sup> place, just slipping in April.

Renewals are still the key, in my opinion. We have dealt with the loss of members due to death since we were founded, that will not change. People move, their lives get very busy with work and family, that also will not change. People not renewing their membership after a number of years, that also will not change, for some. But for many of those members, we need to remind them of why they need to continue their membership. They need reminded of what we do with their membership, and it is more than the money. Yes, the money provides the staff, funds programs and pays for supplies. But it is what we do as volunteers that can make a real difference. Service to our communities, our state and nation has just as big of an impact. Imagine a veterans funeral without a Color Guard, a school sporting event with no one to present the Colors, a town celebration parade without The American Legion leading the way. We go to Des Moines and Washington DC every year to present our legislative agenda to our elected representatives. We fight for the VA care our veterans earned. And more.

Renewals. Call them, knock on their door, invite them back to the Post for a meeting. They joined us for a reason, ask what that reason was. I bet it is still as valid now as it was when they joined, and offer them an opportunity to continue to serve.

I want to thank everyone for the welcome and hospitality I received at your Districts Fall and Spring conferences this past year. My thanks also to Commander Rocky for appointing me to this Committee. For God and Country



***“What we do, Who we are, Who you are, they can be also.”***

### *Marcia's Membership Memos*

Another year is winding down, but we still have some work to do before we come to the final results. As I am writing this the Sixth District is less than half of a percent from being a goal district. The rest of the districts are all in the ninety-percentile range and if a last push could be made there could be more districts that could possibly make it, also. As a department, we only need 2820 more to get to goal. If your post has some members that haven't renewed for 2017 yet, then it is time to make that extra push and contact them and collect their dues and give them their card. KEEP THE MEMBERSHIP COMING!!!!

It won't be long until the posts will be receiving the new membership material for the 2017-2018 year. When the new materials are received, you will notice some changes in the membership cards. Please refer to your Membership Processing Manual for clarification on the new cards. If you still have questions after reading about the changes, I will be available to help anyone, all you need to do is ask. I hope everyone has had a successful membership year and will do the same or better in the coming year.

I look forward to meeting and working with the incoming District Commanders and the new Department Commander and other officers for the coming year.

Summer is upon us and there will many vacations and celebrations in the coming weeks and my wish for everyone is to have safe travels and good times with friends and family and remember our veterans out there that may or may not need assistance. If there is one in need I hope that someone will step up and do the best they can to help.



*“For God and Country”*

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representatives must be paid by their Post or by themselves, as no authority exists for the Department to pay the expenses of any delegate to the Convention.

Each delegation may have as its guests such members of The American Legion and their families as it sees fit to invite to accompany it. Insofar as space will permit, they will be admitted to the Convention Hall.

Press representatives accompanying delegations will be accorded every facility for their work at the Convention. They should report to the Department Headquarters office upon arrival.

**DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS**  
Department Headquarters will be in Room 298 of the Holiday Inn Des Moines Airport, Des Moines, Iowa. Regular and routine correspondence should be sent as usual to the Department Headquarters, 720 Lyon St., Des Moines, Iowa 50309.

### **REGISTRATION AND HOUSING**

Delegates, alternates and guests attending the Convention must register. A \$10.00 registration fee will be collected from all

delegates, alternates and guests at registration.

Delegates, alternates and guests attending the Convention should address all inquiries relative to hotel reservations directly with the designated convention hotel(s).

### **CREDENTIALS FOR DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES**

Credentials for delegates and alternates based upon the number to which each Post is entitled will be given at registration. All delegates, alternates and guests will be required to wear their badge in order to gain admittance into the Convention Hall.

### **OFFICIALS**

Present Department and Post Officers, members of the Department Executive Committee, except Past Department Commanders, Officers of District and County organizations, unless selected as delegates and alternates to the Convention by their Post, have no privileges in the Convention except as guests of their respective delegations. It is suggested that these officials be made members of the official Post delegation, as their experience will be exceedingly valuable to the delegation.

### **RESOLUTIONS**

Any Post or accredited delegate to the Convention may submit resolutions embodying constructive suggestions for the welfare of The American Legion. They should be in duplicate, typewritten, and shall be turned into the Department Adjutant on or before July 7, 2017, in order that he may refer them to the

Resolutions Assignment Committee. A Resolution form with instructions is enclosed. More can be obtained by contacting the Department Adjutant.

### **CONVENTION COMMITTEES Friday, July 21, 1:00 p.m.**

Special rooms will be provided for these committees. Time and place of future meetings of the Convention Committees will be set at the first meetings.

### **DISTRICT CAUCUSES**

District caucuses will be held at 3:00 p.m. Special rooms will be provided. The Districts will conduct such business as may properly come before such caucuses.

**JOHN A. DERNER**  
Department Adjutant

**KEN ROCHHOLZ**  
Department Commander

## **Join, renew your membership online!**

Prospective members can sign up online. Visit [www.legion.org/join](http://www.legion.org/join) and follow the easy prompts from there. This information will be processed by National Headquarters. Once processed, a membership card will be sent to the member, along with other new-member materials.

Once a member, you also can save time, effort and postage by renewing your membership online, and you may choose to take advantage of the Automatic Renewal Program now available nationwide. Members can simply go to [www.legion.org/renew](http://www.legion.org/renew) and click “Renew Now” to safely and conveniently pay their dues. Once a member enters the information requested, he or she can set the account for automatic annual renewal, as well as select the option

to receive e-mail renewal notices instead of notices through the mail. If the membership is current, he or she may still choose to sign up for automatic annual renewal and/or to receive renewal notices by e-mail only. Automatic renewal can also be set up by calling the toll-free American Legion customer service line at (800) 433-3318.

## **District Membership Standings**

Standing	District	2017 Growth Goal	Current Membership	Percentage
First	6th	5,326	5,302	99.55%
Second	1st	4,516	4,348	96.28%
Third	5th	3,344	3,150	94.20%
Fourth	2nd	7,290	6,866	94.18%
Fifth	8th	4,523	4,240	93.74%
Sixth	7th	4,082	3,809	93.31%
Seventh	4th	4,734	4,413	93.22%
Eighth	9th	6,192	5,744	92.76%
Ninth	3rd	6,234	5,699	91.42%
Headquarters		759	795	
<b>Department Total</b>		<b>47,000</b>	<b>44,203</b>	<b>94.05%</b>

**THE AMERICAN LEGION  
DEPARTMENT OF IOWA  
E-NEWSLETTER**