



## Jerry D. Sebben: Candidate for National Executive Committee

Jerry D. Sebben is a candidate for National Executive Committee for the term of 2017-2019 for the Department of Iowa. He has been the Alternate National Executive Committee member for the past four years during which time he has had the opportunity to work closely with many of the great Legionnaires of Iowa. It has been an honor for him to represent the Legionnaires of Iowa and looks forward to his continued service at the National level. He is seeking your support for the office of National Executive Committee member at the Department Convention in July, 2017.



## Dennis J. Soppe: Candidate for Alternate National Executive Committee

Legionnaires of Iowa- I am a candidate for Alternate National Committee and if elected I will do the best I can for the Legion family. I have served as a member of many different Committees as well as being Chairman. I have also served as District Commander, Department Vice Commander, and as Iowa Department Commander. I have also served on National Committees for many years but no matter what the color of my cap or what capacity I serve in, I will always serve my fellow Veterans. Thank you in advance for your consideration and support.

## Candidates for Department Vice Commander



Brian Ring

Hello American Legion Brothers and Sisters, My name is Brian D. Ring Sr. and I am petitioning for the office of Department Vice Commander for the 2017-2018 year. I have been serving my country in and out of Uniform for 35 years. First as active duty Air Force and now as the Supervisor for the 55<sup>th</sup> Civil Engineers Squadron, HVAC shop at Offutt AFB, Ne.

I and my wife Judy have been members of Harvey T. Rimel, Post 141 in Glenwood, Iowa for 12 years.

As a family we have 2 Legionnaires, 4 Auxiliary members, 5 SAL and 3 junior members, we all work towards helping and advancing support for our Veterans.

I have learned a lot about the American Legion during this time by attending Legion College, meetings, conferences and by holding several offices. I have held the following offices;

Post level includes; SGT at Arms, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice, Commander and currently Post Adjutant  
County Offices are; 1<sup>st</sup> Vice and current County Commander  
7<sup>th</sup> District offices include; Vice Commander, and currently District Commander.

I would like to put my knowledge and leadership skills to work by furthering the mission of the American Legion, continue to support our veterans and the help keep the American Legion a Vital and Growing organization. That is why I am asking for your support and vote at the 2017 Summer Convention.

**For God and Country**



Ed Fomies

Man and woman have the important task and ability to provide for themselves, and improve the conditions of the world in which they live - their society, their country, and their community. We as The American Legion have learned to accept this task and exert our efforts daily in an attempt to do as much as we can.

Our involvement and endeavors during the past years have been indicative of what and how we believe.

But we need not dwell on what we did or did not achieve. It is what lies before us that needs thought and

consideration. Here is our opportunity to write upon the sands of time what history may choose; what we elect to do is entirely up to us.

The outcome of our efforts today can only be judged by those who follow us as they will reap the fruits of our labors. Tomorrow is for the youth, but for us, here and now is the time.

As you gather your resources - your talents, your knowledge and your experience, I ask for you to support and follow me, and The American Legion banner. Together, let us build for a better tomorrow.



**Mike Etzel: Candidate for Department Commander**  
I am Mike Etzel, Candidate for Commander of the Department of Iowa. I served in the Marines from 1972 to 1976 as an Avionics technician. I then served in the Command Post of the 132<sup>nd</sup> FW of the Iowa Air National Guard in Des Moines from 1985 to 1995. I was a 30 year career Firefighter for the City of Marion, retiring in 2007 as a Lieutenant.

I first became a member of The American Legion in 1972 when my father signed me up. I left around 1980 due to work and family commitments. I came back in 2001 to become a member of the Marion Post 298 Color Guard, becoming a PUFL in 2006. I have served in many positions within The American Legion, including Marion Post 298 Commander, Linn County Commander, 2<sup>nd</sup> District Commander, various Department Committee and Commission Chairs and National appointments. I am a member of the Sons of the American Legion.

I am currently the Department Membership Chairman and serve on the National Security Commission. I am committed to turning around the decline of membership within the Department of Iowa. This is vital to continuing our programs and the services we provide our members. We are close to goal now, but we must grow membership and not be satisfied to just make goal.

I would ask for your support and vote at the Department Convention this July in Des Moines.

## Candidates for Department Vice Commander



Tim McLaughlin

I am happy to be 6<sup>th</sup> District's endorsed candidate for one of the positions of Department Vice Commander

My background in the American Legion includes three years as Commander of American Legion Post #48 Iowa, two years as County Commander, three years as District ice Commander and one year as District Commander. I currently serve the Legion as a Vice Commander of my Post and as Sgt.-At-Arms for 6<sup>th</sup> District.

I am running for Vice Commander because I feel my experience and ability to communicate our Legion mission is important to the future of this great organization. This is critical because unless we continue to grow and recruit younger members we will cease to be an effective voice for our fellow veterans.

I look forward to working with all Legionnaires as we strive to work on the 4 Pillars of the American Legion.



James Dean

I am currently serving the members of The American Legion of Iowa as 9<sup>th</sup> District Commander and seeking the Department Office of Vice Commander.

Being a native Iowan, I was born in Onawa and have lived most of my life in this great state around the Sloan and Whiting area except when I attended the Grand Island School of Business at Grand Island, NE. After graduation from the business school, in June 1972 I enlisted into the United States Army reserves and then went on active duty in July, the same year. After Advanced Individual Training, I was stationed in the Republic of Korea and then was moved around the world from military bases to military bases through various assignments in this country and world. After a career in the military, I retired and transferred to the Reserve to finish out my military career. After retiring from the service, I returned to his hometown to help my parents in their aging years.

I have since my retirement from the service, been a member of the American Legion for past thirty-two (32) years and I have held some positions on different levels of the American Legion. I was elected Adjutant of my home Post then a few years later was talked into campaigning for the Monona County Chaplain and won. Later I ran for 9<sup>th</sup> District Vice Commander and then was elected to the position of 9<sup>th</sup> District Commander in 2006-2007. After serving as the 9<sup>th</sup> District Commander, I was asked to work Membership and was also the Advisor to Sons of The American Legion. This past year, I served as District Commander again, as someone said you will do it until you do right.

I am a dual member with his membership in the Sons of the American Legion for the past fourteen (14) years.

I ask for your support as I seek the high office of Department Vice Commander for the year 2017-2018.



Gary Haefner

I am Gary Haefner of Donnellsen, IA. I am seeking your support as a candidate for the Office of Department Vice Commander.

I am a PUFL member of Post 474, where I have held the office of Commander for 12 years, also Vice Commander, Sgt-at-Arms and served in the Color Guard in various parades.

I became involved on the District level when I was asked to become the Vice Commander for Zone 3 in 2007. I served until 2016, other than 2012-13 when I served as District Commander. I have also served on the liaison committee. I have served as secretary on the Internal Affairs Commission the past 3 years. For the past year I have served as District Membership Co-Chairman with Harlan Yoder for the 1st District.

When I graduated from Donnellsen High School in 1961, I joined the U S Army Reserve. In Oct. of 1961 my unit was ordered to active duty for the Berlin Crisis,

Gary served 10 mos. on active duty. Was discharged in 1965. In 1974 I joined the IA National Guard and was about to retire after 20 years, when Dessert Storm came along. Active duty again, this time served 4 1/2 mos. in Germany. I finally retired with 21 years of service.

I have been active in different community organizations thru the years. The one I am most proud of is the Donnellsen Fire & Rescue, where I have been a member for 50 years, currently serving as an Asst. Chief.

I have been married to my High School sweetheart, Janet, for almost 52 years. She is active in our American Legion Auxiliary and has had her own preschool for over 30 years.

If elected, I will continue to help our Veterans and their families and support the American Legion Programs.

For God and Country.