



The American Legion
Department of Iowa

Iowa Legionnaire & Auxiliary Communiqué

An Official Publication of The American Legion, Department of Iowa: September 2024

The Iowa Legionnaire and Communiqué
720 Lyon Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50309



Brian D. Ring Sr., (Harvey T. Rimel, Post 141), Elected New Department Commander

I have been serving my country in and out of Uniform for 41 years. First as active duty Air Force for 12.5yrs, 28.5yrs. in the HVAC shop for the 55th Civil Engineer Squadron at Offutt AFB, Ne. as a civilian and retiring April 2023 as the Supervisor.

Judy and I have been members of Harvey T. Rimel, Post 141 in Glenwood, Iowa for 18 years and have been PUFLS for 15 years.

I have learned a lot about the American Legion during this time by attending National Legion College, meetings, and several District conferences. I also held many offices during this time on the post, county, district, state, and National committees. Each office, committee, and mentor I have had along the way have taught me how to be a better legionnaire.

My motto is "Veterans helping Veterans and Youth" This is why the American Legion was founded, TO HELP VETERANS and YOUTH. I believe in the American Legion Family, in the difference we make in the lives of others, and in the bond we all share. Although we have worn different uniforms at different times, and served in different places, we all stand together then and now to help and support one another.

Keeping in line with my moto, my project is the National Emergency Fund (NEF) and the Veterans Emergency Fund (Department of Iowa). Let's continue to help our fellow veterans and their families in their time of need. I'm sure we all know someone that has been effected by the winds, floods and storms that have ravished Iowa.

I believe we can work together to further the mission of the American Legion Department of Iowa, continue to support our veterans, help keep the American Legion a Vital and Growing organization.



Brian D. Ring Sr. Family



The Walk for Veterans

Below is a listing of Department representatives scheduled for the District Conferences.

Tickets to your Conference luncheon should be provided to the Department Commander or Vice Commander, NEC or Alternate NEC, Department Headquarters staff member, and the Department Service Office staff member.

The Department Commander or his designated Vice Commander should be the keynote speaker at your luncheon if you have a program.

Please send an electronic copy of your conference program to Department

Headquarters prior to your conference.

District Commanders are asked to contact all Department representatives attending their respective conferences. Please confirm the time they are speaking, the amount of time allotted for each speaker, and provide hotel information.

Department Vice Commanders should attend the Conferences for the Districts you are assigned. Department Vice Commanders will be reimbursed mileage with the exception of your own Districts.

2024 Fall District Conferences

September 28

8th District - Webster City
Brian Ring, Sr, Department Commander
Dennis Soppe, NEC
Ann Haack, Membership Clerk
Steve Sutton, Claims Representative

October 5

2nd District - Cedar Rapids
Jerry Bennett, Dept. Vice Commander
Dennis Soppe, NEC
Teresa Shaw, Business Manager
Shane Pankonen, Service Officer

October 5

6th District - Pleasantville
Bob Colin, Dept. Vice Commander
Ann Haack, Membership Clerk

October 5

9th District - Ashton
Brian Ring, Sr, Department Commander

Bob Waugh, Alternate NEC
Eric Less, Programs Director
Josey Pester, Claims Representative

October 12

7th District - Avoca
Brian Ring, Sr, Department Commander
Bob Waugh, Alternate NEC
Eric Less, Programs Director
Shane Pankonen, Service Officer

October 19

1st District - West Point
Jerry Bennett, Dept. Vice Commander
Bob Waugh, Alternate NEC
Ann Haack, Membership Clerk
Josey Pester, Claims Representative

October 19

3rd District - Waverly
Jeff Large, Dept. Vice Commander
John Derner, Department Adjutant

Steve Sutton, Claims Representative

October 19

5th District - Newton
Brian Ring, Sr, Department Commander
Dennis Soppe, NEC
Teresa Shaw, Business Manager
Shane Pankonen, Service Officer

October 26

4th District - Fairbank
Brian Ring, Sr, Department Commander
Dennis Soppe, NEC
Eric Less, Programs Director
Josey Pester, Claims Representative

October 27

SAL Detachment Conference
Department Headquarters

November 2

Finance Commission/DEC
Department Headquarters

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT #27
WEBSTER CITY, IA

Deadlines & Dates

September 1
History Books Due

September 2
Labor Day
Department Offices Closed

September 15
Post Officer Forms Due to Department

September 16
American Legion Day

September 27-29
National Combined Americanism Conference
Indianapolis, IN

September 28
8th District Conference- Webster City

October 5
2nd District Conference-
Veterans Memorial Building, Cedar Rapids
6th District Conference- Pleasantville
9th District Conference -
Ashton Community Bldg.

October 6-10
National Fall Meetings (Indianapolis Indiana)

October 12
7th District Conference - Avoca

October 14
Columbus Day
Department Offices Closed

October 19
1st District Conference- West Point
3rd District Conference- Waverly
5th District Conference - Newton

October 26
4th District Conference - Fairbank

October 27
SAL Fall Conference- Department HQ

November 2
Finance Meeting - Department Headquarters
Department Executive Meeting -
Department Headquarters

November 5
Election Day

November 11
Veterans Day

November 15
Boys State Orientation Dates due to HQ
Oratorical District & Area Contest Dates due
Winter Legionnaire Articles are due

November 23
Membership Committee Meeting

November 28-29
Thanksgiving
Department Offices Closed

November 30
Firefighter of the Year &
Law Enforcement Officer of the Year due to HQ

December 6
Department Christmas Open House - 3 PM

December 14
Boys State Board Meeting - 10 AM HQ

December 24-26
Christmas
Department Offices Closed



The American Legion, Department of Iowa

Mailing: 720 Lyon St., Des Moines, IA 50309
 Website: www.ialegion.org
 Phone: (800) 365-8387 • (515) 282-5068 • Fax: (515) 282-7583

American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Iowa

Website: www.iowaala.org
 Phone: (515) 282-7987 • Fax: (515) 282-7583

Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Iowa

Website: www.ialegion.org/sal
 Phone: (800) 365-8387 • (515) 282-5068 • Fax: (515) 282-7583

2023-2024 American Legion Department Officers**Commander**

Brian D Ring Sr commander@ialegion.org

Vice Commanders

Sam Blumer sblumer87@gmail.com
 Robert L Colin golf0069@gmail.com
 Ed Fontes s.fontessue6798@gmail.com
 Jeff Large jlargeusarmyvet@gmail.com
 Gerald Bennett s.banuto2@aol.com

Adjutant

John A. Derner john@ialegion.org

Service Officer

Shane Pankonen shane.pankonen@va.gov

Finance Officer

Candice Lanning candithecpa@gmail.com

Judge Advocate

Dwight Dinkla ddinkla@iowabar.org

Chaplain

Cindy Yslas yslas@msn.com

Sergeant-At-Arms

Tom Ryan s.tprsr1951@hotmail.com

National Executive Committeeman

Dennis Soppe nec@ialegion.org

Alternate National Executive Committeeman

Bob Waugh bobwaugh89@gmail.com

Past Department Commanders

Bob Waugh Douds bobwaugh89@gmail.com
 Randy Johnson RandyJohnsonr17696@gmail.com
 Stanley D Elliott selliott478@gmail.com

2024-2025 District Commanders

1st Curt Goudy Douds
firstdistrict@ialegion.org

2nd Dick Bries
seconddistrict@ialegion.org

3rd Del Shepard
thirddistrict@ialegion.org

4th Cindy Yslas
fourthdistrict@ialegion.org

5th Gary Quinlan
fifthdistrict@ialegion.org

6th Don De Kock
sixthdistrict@ialegion.org

7th Terry Joynes
seventhdistrict@ialegion.org

8th Tony Lile
eighthdistrict@ialegion.org

9th George Farrell III
ninthdistrict@ialegion.org

Department Service Office

Mail: 561 Federal Building, 210 Walnut St., Des Moines, IA 50309
 Phone: (800) 944-2039 • (515) 323-7532 • Fax: 515-323-7401

Claims Representatives

Steven Sutton, Josey Pester
 Shane Pankonen

Department Headquarters Staff Directory

Adjutant John Derner john@ialegion.org
Membership Clerk Ann Haack ann@ialegion.org
Programs Director Eric Less eric@ialegion.org
Business Manager Teresa Shaw teresa@ialegion.org
General Information info@ialegion.org

Auxiliary Department Staff Directory

Executive Director
 Crystal Wright alasectreas@ialegion.org
Membership
 Jeannie McKeever alamembership@ialegion.org

The Iowa Legionnaire and Communiqué

is published quarterly
 (March, June, September, and December)
 by The American Legion, Department of Iowa
 720 Lyon St., Des Moines, Iowa 50309



Department Commander

Brian D. Ring Sr.

Hello Legion Family
 Well our July 2024 Department Conference is now in the books and was well attended, Thank You all for being there.

My Motto is "Veterans Helping Veterans and Youth", this is the primary reason why the American Legion was formed and has been evolving TO HELP VETERANS AND YOUTH. Iowa's Legion Family dedication to our Veterans is seen when we visit our VA hospitals, do our buddy checks, and volunteer at Veterans stand downs just to name a few. Helping our Youth, Did you know that Nationally, between Post, District's, Departments and National, the Legion family has given out just over \$14 million in scholarship's for 2023. You ask "how did they get this number". From our Consolidated Post Reports (CPR), sad to say Iowa only turned in 305 CPR's (we have 568 Post) in 2023. We can do better than this, every Post does something that can be reported and used in our CPR's. Now is a good time to get into the schools and promote Oratorical, Boys/Girls state, it is never too early to start recruiting for these important programs.

My project falls in line with my Motto, my project is the National Emergency Fund (NEF) and the Veterans Emergency Fund (Department of Iowa). Let's continue to help our fellow veterans and their families in their time of need. I'm sure we all know someone that has been effected by the winds, floods and storms that have ravished Iowa. Please Donate, Please Help. Membership, we all are a part of the membership team. The Department over all was 1466 membership shy of hitting 100% in 2024 membership year. We all are looking for new and younger Veterans to join our Post.

So let's ask ourselves:

1. How does our Post look to the Community, is it inviting or dull and dingy?
2. When someone new walks through the door, do you go and say Hi and talk to them/make them feel welcome or do you ignore them.
3. How do you represent your Post in your community? Do they know that you are a Legionnaire, Legion Auxiliary, Sons of American Legion or a Legion Rider?
4. Does your Post actively engage in community outreach or activities?

If your Post or County want a visit from me go to laLegion.org, click on the about tab, scroll down to Department Commander, then click on that and you will see a Commander Visit button. Fill out the form and submit. Judy and I would like to come visit.

VETERANS HELPING VETERANS and YOUTH
 For God and Country



Department Adjutant

John A. Derner

As we prepare for the upcoming district conferences, I am reminded of the first district conference I ever attended. I had just become an officer in the Post, and members of

the Post encouraged me to attend the conference. They convinced me that as a Post officer, I was obligated to attend.

That first district conference was the beginning of a journey which would lead to countless memories and friendships that I would have otherwise never experienced.

I went to the conference to expand my knowledge of The American Legion. While I did accomplish that goal, the real benefit of attending the conference is how it has changed my life. I realize that most attendees would not consider a district conference a life-changing experience, but for many of us, it truly does change our lives.

At that first district conference I attended more than 25 years ago, I met friends I still have today. It also led to me attending Department functions, such as the Mid-Winter Conference and the Department Convention. Once again, I was attending to expand my knowledge of The American Legion but benefitted most from the friendships I have gained.

Involvement at the Department level led to involvement on the National level. I now have friends all over the country because of my involvement in The American Legion. Some of those friends I include as the best friends I have ever made.

The point I am trying to make is that involvement in The American Legion is not just about being active in the organization. It is also an opportunity to enrich your own life. The experiences and the friendships that The American Legion has afforded me are invaluable. I will carry them with me for the rest of my life.

The American Legion has become my extended family. I was introduced to that family by my involvement on the Post level and as I have progressed in the organization, my family has expanded.

I will admit that serving as Department Adjutant has given me many unique opportunities in The American Legion. But I would never have been given the opportunity of this position if I had never gone beyond the post level.

If you had asked me 25 years ago at that first district conference about becoming a department officer, I would have called you crazy. That is one of the things I appreciate most about this organization. You never know where it may lead you.

Your path may take you to District Commander, Department Commander, National Commander, or you may choose to keep your blue cap your entire Legion career. Wherever it leads you, I guarantee that your life will be enriched by getting involved in the organization.

The American Legion Family is composed of some of the best people I have ever met. I am a better person for having known them. For that, I would like to say thank you to those members of my post in Dedham who encouraged me to attend district and department meetings. You honestly did change my life.

Not only do I encourage you to get involved, but recruit and encourage others as well. For me, it is difficult to think of what my life would be like without The American Legion. Every member we fail to recruit loses an opportunity to have his/her life enriched by this organization. Every member we fail to recruit takes away a potential leader for our organization.

I hope to see some of you at the district conferences. And I hope you bring a friend or meet a new one.



Department Service Officer Shane Pankonen

Annual Clothing Allowance

Today is a good time to start thinking about submitting your annual clothing allowance applications. The clothing allowances is a allowance available to veterans who are rated for a service connected condition that requires the use of a wheelchair, or orthopedic appliances. Also, if an individual has a service-connected skin condition that requires medication, which harms the outer clothing you may be entitled

to an annual clothing allowance.

You may also qualify for multiple clothing allowances, if more than one prosthetic appliance and/or medication is used for two separate service-connected disabilities. One example is being service connected for paraplegia and requiring the constant use of a wheelchair.

In order to apply, you must submit a VA Form 10-8678 to the Prosthetic and Sensory Service at your local Department of Veterans Medical Center (VAMC) prior to August 1st of each year. The current annual clothing allowance is \$968.52, which is paid after August 1st. The application is available on the Department of Veterans Affairs website or you may contact your local Prosthetic Department as well

your local PVA Service Officer for assistance.

The applications are collected throughout the year and held until the closing date of August 1st. They are then processed, and Veterans should receive their payments between September 1st and October 31st. Remember this is an annual payment and will only be made during this time frame only. If you are under the reoccurring clothing allowance, then you do not need to reapply for this benefit.

If you have any questions about this benefit, you may contact the American Legion service office and we will be glad to assist you. If we maybe contacted directly at 515-323-7532 for questions regarding this benefit or any VA benefits.



National Executive Committeeman Dennis Soppe

Hello Legionnaires of Iowa

Hope this finds all of you in good health. Our State convention is now history as we have elected new officers to fill positions and we have some officers that are returning. I wish them all the best of luck in the coming year.

By now I hope all of you have signed up for the Pact Act. It isn't very often that we veterans get what is entitled to us namely care for our being in the service.

I know our service officers have been busy working to accommodate our veterans.

By now you have all heard or read that we advocate that you contact your service officer for necessary paperwork concerning any problem that you may have. The biggest problem we have now is the predatory practices that are going on concerning the Pact Act and Camp Lajeune problems. If you feel the need to contact an attorney please go to Bergmann and Moore LLC as the legion endorses them otherwise our service officers can help you do the paperwork. Some of the tactics that they use are charging high fees, making dishonest promises, and requiring binding contracts. These are just some of

the practice they use. If you run across this please contact the service officer as they may be able to help you.

Remember BE THE ONE and Buddy Checks. Call a friend or someone whether they are a veteran or a civilian and see how they are doing. We all can make a difference and we must make the difference. Too many lives are being wasted due to suicide and drugs. We had our buddy when we were in service and we need to continue that in our civilian life.

Here's hoping that I see you in New Orleans for our National Convention and if you can't make it in person you can stream it live at American Legion . org /convention/ resources.



Sons of The American Legion Detachment Commander Doug Honse

Greetings from Detachment Commander Douglas Honse. A little background on myself for those of you who do not know me. I am a

six-year member of the Sons of the American Legion and a recent transfer to the Le Mars Squadron 241. My only association to the American Legion is not from any service of my own but the selfless service of two of my great grandfathers during WWII and my father during Desert Storm. My theme for the year is "Be a Legacy Guardian." To do this we must honor the

legacy of the service men and women who served this country and either never made it home or came home in different shape than when they left. It was their duty to serve; It is our duty to remember their service.

Now that we have gotten the introductions out of the way let us get down to the plan and goals for the year. I plan to work with the District Commanders and the squadrons in the Detachment that are in desperate need of either revitalization or closure. I would much rather revitalize than close. I plan to collaborate closely with my Vice-Commanders to accomplish this and we will be breaking the Detachment up into thirds and work with each third in the first three quarters of the year and use the final quarter to finalize my goals.

Also, a side note; it seems that there has been a small challenge issued between the Legion, Auxiliary, Sons of the American Legion, and the Legion Riders. This challenge was issued by Verlinda Prior, Department of Iowa Auxiliary President, and the real winners will be the veterans that go to the homeless veterans stand down. The most requested item is socks, so we are collecting them for the stand down. So here it goes 1,2,3,4 we declare a sock war. The SAL is off to a running start with 252 pairs collected and counting.

We intend to grow the American Legion FAMILY not any one branch of the organization. We must all work together to grow together or we will all fall short together.



1st District Commander Curtis Goudy

My fellow Legionaries

Since the district spring meeting many things have happened the Department leadership school, Department convention, National membership workshop, many fundraisers and community parades just to name a handful. One

point to me has stuck out The American Legion dose so much but we are terrible at bragging about it. The many children and youth programs are on the forefront of my mind when we talk about what we do as Legionaries. Get the word out and involvement from the community will follow weather it be baseball, Boys or Girls State, 5th grade flag essay, oratorical. If your post has coaches in other youth sports call it out. If your post is a sponsor of a local youth team call it out. Call it out when your fundraising. Call it out when that team wins. Call it on any and all social media.

For years I have heard how do we get younger members like you. Legionaries call out what you do!!! I am proud to be a member of John Hyson Reneker Post 494 of Douds. We fully support youth programs. If you want the younger veteran support what they are interested in. If your not doing one youth program and you're not growing as a post give it a try.

For God and County

MEMBERSHIP

Hello again, dear readers! By the time you read this, you're well into the 2025 membership year. Are you ready to make this the year your Post makes 100%? 105%? If so, that's awesome!

You might be wondering, "Hm, how do I find out what my goal for 2025 is?" If you don't already know, Post goals are posted on the weekly membership report. You can go to ialeion.org/membership, then select the Membership Report in the blue box. This report shows not just your goal, but also how many paid

members the Post has in the system. No log in is needed to view this report.

If computers aren't your best friend, you can also talk with your District about your goal for the year.

You may also be wondering, "Hm, how do they make up these numbers for our goal?" National gives us an overall Department goal to achieve, then the Department Membership Committee works to divide that bigger number into Post goals. An individual Post's goal is often based on prior paid membership totals. Got questions about goals? Each District has a

membership person on the committee, so they are a good place to start.

As always, we're also here to answer your questions! But can you answer the question of why the tree decided to take art classes? She wanted to branch out.

We'll see you soon at a District Conference or talk with you soon on the phone!



2nd District Commander Richard Bries

Second District Legion Family Greetings!

Hello! I'm Dick Bries and I will be your District Commander for a second year. I want to thank you for your support this past year (2023-2024). Second District had a good year - we were # 1 for membership by Veterans Day and finished 2nd place for the year. I know we can finish 1st in 2025, if we work together. Remember, we are all recruiters for the Legion Family. Just think how our District could be # 1 if everyone

would recruit one new member. Again, thank you in achieving 2nd place in membership.

I asked if we could have 100% Consolidated Post Reports (CPRs) turned in from every post by June 15th and we fell short. However, 2nd District did receive an award for turning in the largest percentage of submitted CPRs. Thank you for that award. We will strive again for 100% in 2025.

Your 2024-2025 team for 2nd District is myself, Commander Dick Bries, Adjutant-Polly Graham, Vice Commanders: Don Arns-Vice Commander (Clinton/Scott), Dick Hogan (Lynn/Jones), Bob Felderman-

(Dubuque/Jackson), Sergeant At Arms-Alan LaPage, Chaplain-Janet Grass, Finance Officer-Robert Demastus, and Membership Chair-Don Arns. Please

feel free to contact Dick Bries at (563) 581-7012, your Vice Commanders, or any team member. We want to thank Dale Ratterman for the outstanding job he did for the 2nd District as Finance Office over the last few years. Robert, you have very large shoes to fill, and welcome aboard!

Thank you, Team for saying yes.

There were several Awards received at 2024 Convention this year, I Congratulate the posts and people who won those awards. I especially want to congratulate Bently Ernst for being 1st place in the Department of Iowa, 5th Grade Flag Essay Contest. Way to go Bently!

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY
BE THE ONE



3rd District Commander Del Shepard

I would like to introduce myself to the Posts in the Third District of Iowa. For the past two years, I have served as a Vice Commander for the Third District, along with Bob Daniel and Richard Echelberger. I

would like to thank Dixie Kapayou for her leadership and dedication this past year as she has served as Third District Commander.

I look forward to working with your Post next year as you strive to serve your members and veterans in your communities. A personal goal of mine is to learn more about your needs as a Post and to assist you in finding resources that are available at the State and National level. During my travels the past two years in Third District, I have found that Legion members are not aware of the programs and resources available to them.

Officers of the Third District are making plans for the Fall Conference. Your members and especially your

officers are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity to meet with veterans from around the District and to learn from them. Each Post that I have visited has been an eye opener as to the quality of service they offer to their members and their local community. We can all learn the best practices from others and take those ideas back home and use them locally.

You will be receiving more information about this conference in the next few weeks. If you have never attended one of these meetings, I would encourage you to do so. Getting out of your own community and sharing your own successes can help the American Legion Posts of Iowa stronger and more effective.

In a previous job, I served as the Director of the Iowa Manufacturing Technology Center. We worked with small companies across the State of Iowa. What I learned from that experience is that Iowa is a very proud state. There are tremendous opportunities in Iowa, however, many times we are not getting message out to others in ways that can help them grow as well. I feel strongly that the sharing of ideas for helping local veterans in our communities can be

more effective if we can share those ideas.

During the Leadership School held in Des Moines a month ago, officers of our District set a very ambitious goal for 2024-2025. Each Post will receive more information in the next several weeks, and your Vice Commander will provide more assistance. This goal will help all Post check off a list of items that each Post should have on file in their records as an organization. We know of a few Posts that have been lax in filing the IRS Tax Form 990-N or maybe the Iowa tax report every other year. This is critical for Posts to maintain their non-profit status.

There are other items that will be on the list that Posts will receive which will help Posts to be better organized. When members of our leadership team presented our goal to the other participants at the Leadership School, several commented that their own District may need to do a review of their record keeping.

And finally, I wanted to ask you all to get your membership renewals sent into the Iowa American Legion Department as soon as possible. Thank you.

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY



4th District Commander Cindy Yslas

As I travel around my corner of Northeast Iowa and visit any of the 69 posts that make up 4th District, I am asked a similar question again and again. "What is the long-term plan for the American Legion?"

When faced with the declining numbers within posts, every conversation leads back to the fear of posts slowly declining (by as many as 2-3 members a year) with the passing of "seasoned" members of their posts "aging out" through death and declining health. With the difficulty of finding new members to replace those we lose; the time seems inevitable that posts will slowly be a thing of the past. So how do I answer this concern when faced with the question time and time again? This is certainly a national epidemic and not just for the American Legion and certainly not just in small rural towns throughout the state of Iowa.

We, as a fixture within our communities, need simply to look closely around us to see who makes up our community. Think beyond our walls of a legion hall, fire station, local bar, or community center where monthly meetings are held and see who makes up the community activities around us. Go where the people are. Go to the sporting events, the high school football games, the county fairs and see who's wearing an "Army" hat or a "Go Air Force" sweatshirt. Veterans stand out by the way they stand, walk, talk, even the haircut they sport. Find that young man or woman who may have joined the military right out of high school (often listed in the local newspapers at Graduation time) and has now moved back to your community to work at the local grocery store or on Mom & Dad's dairy farm.

Keep in mind, they will most likely NOT come knocking on your door as so often I find, they don't consider themselves "real" veterans as "I only served a couple years", or "I'm not interested in belonging to a group of old people who sit around and tell "war stories" all day", or perhaps something happened

during their service time that caused them to leave the military life behind. So It's our job to reach out to them; offer them something they may not even realize they are looking for. I guarantee there are benefits they qualify for that they may not even realize. Benefits and support that we, The American Legion family, can provide.

So always be looking for those individuals around us that are new to your community, find those young or recently retired veterans and start a casual conversation. Get to know them and thank them for their service ... you may be surprised by who is living next to you, just waiting to be invited to belong to something bigger than themselves; something they may be missing from their time in service. An organization designed to look out for them & their families, The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary.



5th District Commander Gary J. Quinlan

Hopefully everyone is doing well. Looking back at last Month's Department Convention I got to see quite a few Legion Members from around the state. Which is always a good time. Before going

into the new membership year 2024-25. I would like to congratulate the 15 posts that made 100% of their membership goals or higher. Well done.

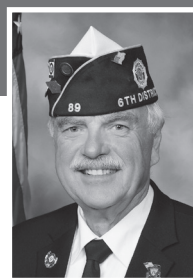
Aug 23rd through Aug 29th the National Convention is taking place in New Orleans, Louisiana and the leading candidate is James A LaCoursiere from Connecticut. I've met him and he seems to care deeply about the organization.

If you are unaware The American Legion now has 3-year memberships. Please get ahold of your posts if interested. When you are part of a non-profit organization membership dues are very important. If you didn't know of all the VA claims submitted in the state, The American Legion of Iowa helps with over 70% of those claims, so if you know a veteran that is

receiving benefits from the VA and isn't a member of the American Legion. You must ask him or her why not. Membership does matter. Also, buddy checks are very important. BE THE ONE.

I'm hoping everyone has a great year. I'm your District Commander again for this year. I've talked to some of you, and I hope I was able to help you resolve any issues or concerns you might have had.

For God and Country,



6th District Commander
Don De Kock

We hope everyone has been having a great summer.

The Department Convention took place a few weeks ago and what a Convention the 6th District had. So, I must begin by saying thank

you to all of the Post Commanders, Adjutants and the Membership Officers. Because of those individuals, I was recognized as the District Commander with the highest percentage of renewals as of June 30. An award like this is not what I have done but what the members of the District have done.

So now a challenge to all of the 2024-2025 Post Commanders, Adjutants, and Membership Officers to not only to keep the 6th District in first place, but to raise the renewal rate up to 100% along with gathering 96 new members across the District.

How do we get new members, you ask? You start by simply asking those Veterans who are not members to become members. Be prepared to talk about the Legion. Be prepared to tell them why they should join and the advantages of joining the Legion. Tell them what your Post can do for them, what your Post can do for their family. Tell them what a great asset they would be to the Post. Tell them about what your Post does for

your community, the youth programs that they can be part of and help with. We have a lot of youth programs all which take members to make them successful.

The Sixth District was honored to have multiple young adults recognized during the Convention as well. Caleb Kalkwarf, from Pella was recognized as the Outstanding Citizen at Boys State, Haley Hadley from Des Moines was recognized for being elected Governor at Girls State, Karli Roth, who was sponsored by the Earlham Post 158, was recognized as the winner of the Department Oratorical Contest. As the District Commander I am very proud of these young adults, and it has truly been an honor and a blessing to get to know each of them.

Then to put icing on our awards cake, a Legion member of the 6th District received the Legionnaire of the Year Award. Curt Rosener, of the Highland Park Post 374 in Des Moines was selected as the Legionnaire of the Year. Congratulations Curt. This is a well-deserved recognition of what you do for veterans at all levels

I got home on Sunday afternoon from the Department Convention with enough time to get some clothes washed and repacked so I could get on the road early Thursday morning headed to Indianapolis for the National Membership Training. Ten of us representing the Department of Iowa got to spend some quality time in the two Department vans traveling there and back. But most importantly we got to spend time listening to some great speakers, meeting new friends

and fellow Legionnaires.

Before I end this article, I need to tell another story, this story is about one of our fellow legionnaires of the 6th District, who is a member of Post 99 located in Minburn. His name is Mahlon Conaway. Mahlon is an active member of the Minburn Post and just happened to celebrate his 99th birthday during August.

Department Vice Commander Bob Conlin, 6th District Vice Commander Crystal Wright, and I all attended the Post Meeting on August 7, 2024, to celebrate Mahlon's birthday. Because of a conversation I heard Mahlon having with another Post member, I asked Mahlon if he had been in the Navy. Mahlon answered me with a very resounding no, I was in the Army. Mahlon stated the only thing the Navy did for me was to give me a ride and then dump me out. I asked Mahlon where the Navy dumped him out at? Mahlon started Omaha Beach. It was then that I realized I was talking with and celebrating the birthday of a legend. A Veteran of WW II and D Day. A Veteran who went through a Battle where many of his comrades never came home, comrades who never got to celebrate their next birthday let alone their 99th birthday. Happy Birthday Mahlon, I hope I get to celebrate your birthday with you next year as you hit triple digits.

Remember to always keep the wind on your back, the salt spray in your face, and never forget whose hand is on the tiller of your life, guiding you through each day.



7th District Adjutant
Amy Muse

Hello 7th (Pioneer) District!

As many of you know may know, Commander Joynes has had numerous health issues since Fall Conference. Currently, Vice Commander Mitch Brahms has

been filling in. There will be much to discuss at Fall Conference October 12 at Fred Funston Post 227 in Avoca. Registration (\$10.00) begins at 0900 and the meeting starts at 1000. Membership Chair Jared Muse has crunched the numbers to meet Department Commander Brian Ring Sr.'s membership target. Most Posts will be delighted to see 100% should be more attainable as the largest Posts with the highest veteran population in those counties have been given higher targets. He hopes that small Posts will focus

on retention and strengthening local community support. Many areas in 7th District have been greatly impacted by the weather this year. Thank you goes to the Posts that have supported those in our District and 9th District these past months. Please continue reaching out to members in the Legion Family and locals in your communities. I have had many phone calls and local engagement too numerous to name all the support in this District. Thanks.



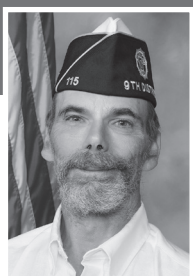
8th District Commander
Tony Lile

Thank you for your trust in me to lead the 8th District, I will always try to do what is best for the District as a whole. I believe the role of District Commander is to help Posts and guide them so they can achieve

their goals. The heart of the American Legion is the Posts, they have the ability to help the greatest

number of veterans. I also believe that if American Legion Posts stay active within their communities they will grow, because other veterans will want to be a part of something that is not only good as well as helps veterans. If you want me to visit your Post, send me an email with the details of when and where, I will try to accommodate all that I can. I hope that all Posts will join us at our District Conferences, fall and spring, where we can provide information and some training on various topics. The 8th District's fall conference will be in Webster City on September 28th, at American Legion Post 191. It is not a requirement that a

Commander or Adjutant attend our conferences, someone from each Post that can receive information and carry it back to share with your Post. I know that we all have lives, and the American Legion is a volunteer organization. I do believe it is important to strengthen the organization roster so when we need to take up an issue with Congress we are doing so with millions of voices. I look forward to meeting many of you within the 8th District. You can reach me by email at tlile@fmctc.com or call me at 712-790-7929. I look forward to serving the 8th District as best I can.



9th District Commander
George Farrell

Hello 9th district. As I assume my position as your Commander.

I hope to do the job to the best of my ability. Goals of mine are to

maintain membership and reach out to 729 list. The fall conference will be at Ashton on Oct 5th. Hope to get to meet many posts this year.

I want to recognize Lemars riders for their flags for vets' program. Congratulations to Doug Honse for becoming SAL detachment commander for 2024-2025. I want to keep our district strong. Also, Sept 7th

poker run starting in Lemars.

I want to thank Chris Weinreich for the letter he drafted that we sent to each post who suffered devastation with flooding. We sent a letter to each post in the district to help the post who were affected.



Cliff Barker Department Riders Chairman

Riders, 2024 is rolling and you all are doing a fantastic job representing the heart of what it is that we do. Department Convention saw 68 attendees on a weekend already filled with rides and events across the state. We raffled off a donated guitar and a first run bottle of Defiant Whiskey to benefit the Veteran's Emergency Fund at Department raising over \$1000 for a great cause for our Iowa Legion families in need. Our meeting was again attended by Past Department Commanders, visiting National Officers and National Executive Committee members. The attention we are getting is positive and encouraging that we are on the right path We've collected most of the donations now for this year's Legacy Run, and indications are we will have 15-20 Iowa Riders meeting in Missouri and riding to New Orleans, taking with us another already record amount. In just our third year of taking our Department's donations to the Convention,

and just our first-year riding to support the Veteran and Children Foundation, we continue to impress. Also, at the convention our Department Commander Brian Ring, from Glenwood, who is also a Riders Supporter member asked me to serve another three year term as your Department Riders Chair. I agreed, and I feel it is a perfect time to expand the program a bit. There was unanimous support by all those in attendance to improve the reach of our social media, and we are exploring a Statewide Legacy Ride, as well as adding an American Legion Riders College. If there are volunteers for the planning and leading of a Department of Iowa Legacy Ride, I would like to see what 4-5 of you come up with. Reach out to me if you'd like to be part of a team to make it happen, and I'll work on ALR College.

We'll see some of you in Missouri, and others at National Convention, and until then, Ride safe, and Ride often.



Dignitaries gather to honor the Frazer brothers from Oelwein — from third-left Warner, Michael (seated) and Patrick —who were recognized for 60 years' service to the American Legion at the Oelwein Ross Reid Post 9 Home on Friday. From left, front row, Adjutant Rick Kleppe, Department Vice Cmdr. Friz Kies, the Frazers, Department Cmdr. Stanley Elliott, 4th District Cmdr. Cindy Islas; back row, Department Membership Brian Ring, Oelwein Post 9 Cmdr. Terry Hull.



Brothers from Oelwein, Warner, Michael (seated) and Patrick Frazer were honored Friday with pins for 60 years of service to the American Legion and surprised with Quilts of Valor from the Otter Creek QOV chapter. Patrick lives in the San Diego area, the others reside in Oelwein.

2023-2024 Membership Awards

Post Membership Trophies

- RJ Laird: #473 Oxford Junction (+9)
- BA Webster: #231 Farmington (+8)
- CB Robbins: #260 Slater (+12)
- RA McGinnis: #572 Fairfax (+6)
- Daniel F Steck: #135 Cresco (+8)
- BL Halligan: #102 Chariton (+5)
- Ray Murphy: #48 Nevada (+7)
- James F Barton: #739 Marshalltown (+48)
- Service Club: #659 Des Moines (+9)

Post Awards

All-Time High:

- Post Growth: #430 Durant with 48
- 5-year all-time high:
- 1st District --- #430 Durant --- 47 years

Commander's Membership Sweepstakes

- 1st Place Winner: #739 Marshalltown, 3rd District (+48)
- Runner Up Winner: #298 Marion, 2nd District (+29)

District Membership Trophies

- Spafford: 6th District and Johnston #728 (+19)

District Membership Awards

- Watch: 6th District (97.15%)



Tammy Stasi, 2024 Educator of the Year

I sincerely love my country and take pride in teaching the next generation of students about how fortunate we are to live in a free, democratic country. We study the past, learn about local, state, and federal government, and learn about our leaders, etc. ... but most importantly I try to teach our students about how our country is constantly changing and evolving to be the best that it can be. We are learning from our mistakes of the past and using the foundation of our country (the Constitution) to give freedom and opportunity to all its citizens. My students learn why the United States of America is the envy of the entire world.

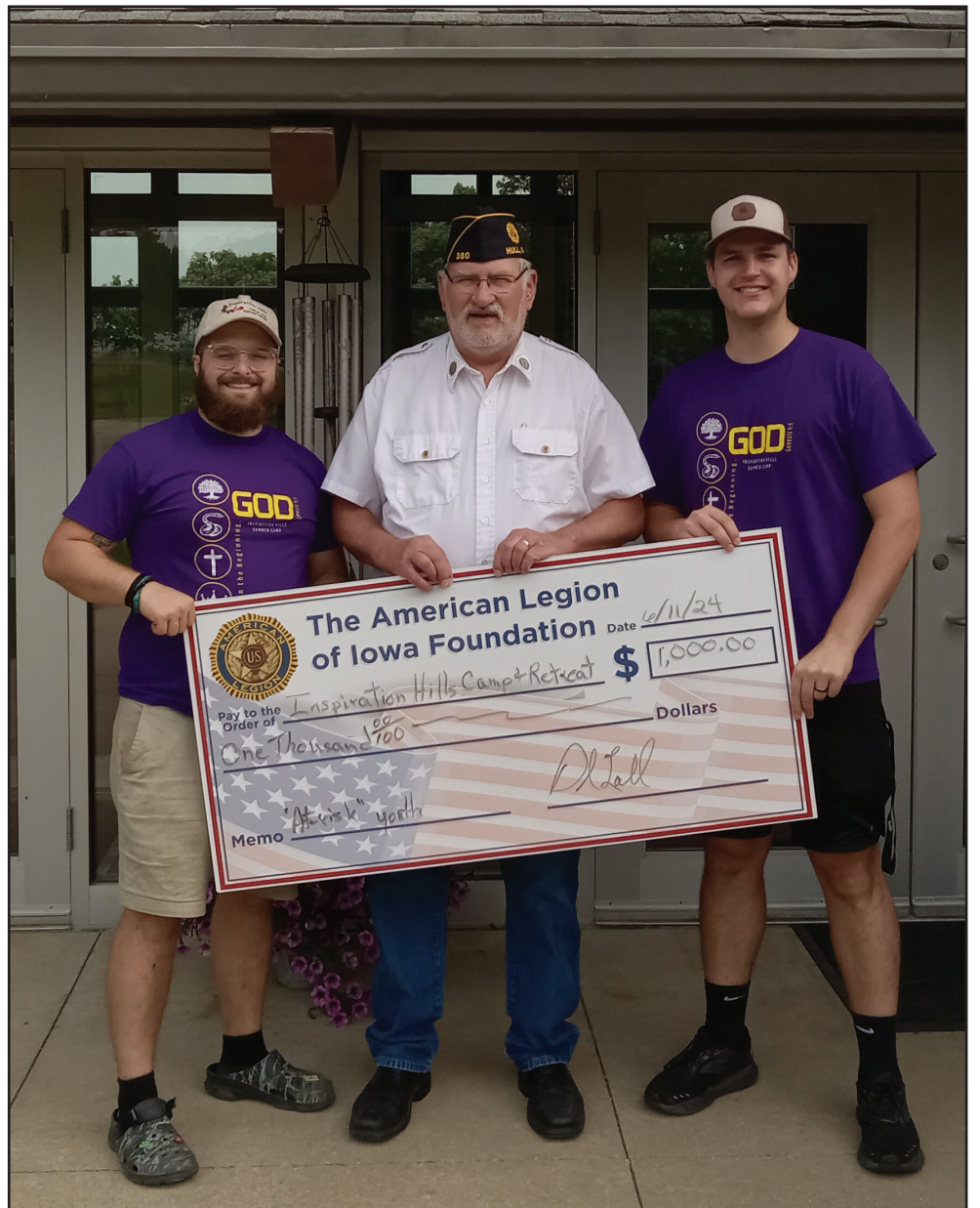


The American Legion of Iowa Foundation

2024 Special Edition

We Continue to Serve in Peace, As We Served in War.

Page 7



We're inspired by the community of
veterans still serving in America

For over 50 years, the Legionnaire Insurance Trust has been
delivering peace of mind and financial support for veterans,
their families, and the Departments of The American Legion.

LEGIONNAIRE INSURANCE TRUST



LEGIONNAIRE INSURANCE
TRUST PROGRAM

Click here to view your
member benefits!

www.thelit.com



Contact us for additional information on
The American Legion of Iowa Foundation

American Legion of Iowa Foundation

720 Lyon Street
Des Moines, IA 50309
(800) 365-8387
foundation@ialegion.org

www.ialegion.org/iafoundation



The American Legion of Iowa Foundation



Greetings from your new president of the American Legion of Iowa Foundation. It is my honor and pleasure to serve as your president. I was elected to this position at our last meeting in May. I serve with eight other foundation directors, one from each district. My name is Leonard Ernst from Legion Post 273, 2nd District, of Bellevue. Being a foundation director is the greatest position I have ever held. It is a very rewarding experience when delivering the grant checks to the selected recipients. I have been a Legionnaire for 53 years as well as a PUFL member.

Many thanks to Dave Rehbein, my predecessor, for his many years of service as president.

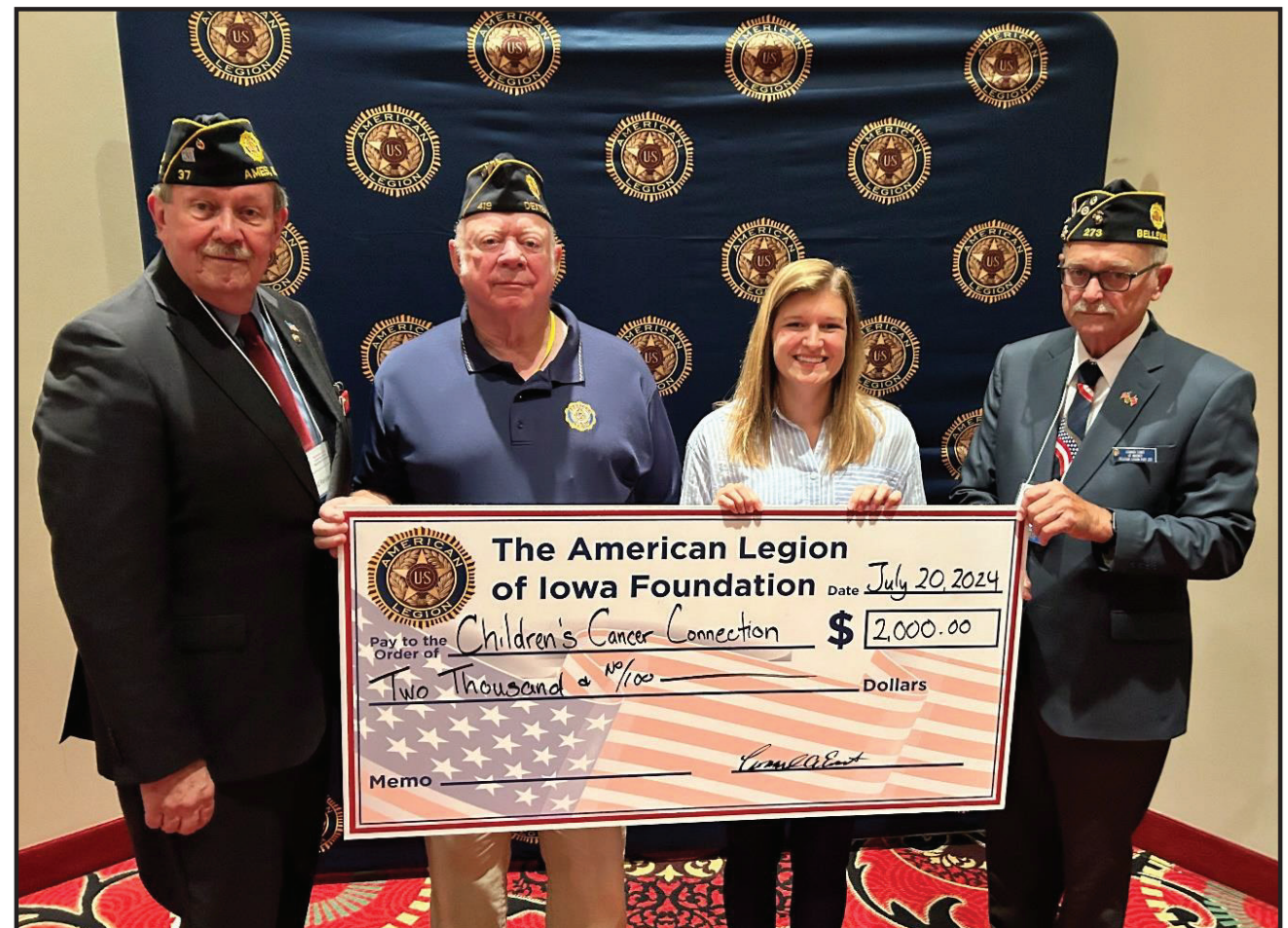
We usually meet three times a year, once at each department convention and in May when we select the grant recipients for each year. The deadline for receiving grant applications is April 15th each year. We award veteran education scholarships and grants to non-profits. This year we granted approximately \$103,000.

My email address is leonardaernst@gmail.com. If you have any questions or concerns, please email me. You can also contact your local Foundation district director.

Leonard Ernst, President



Camp Courageous



Children's Cancer Connection



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF IOWA Auxiliary Communiqué



SERVING VETERANS, THEIR FAMILIES AND THEIR COMMUNITIES

Fall 2024

Page 9



**2024-2025
Auxiliary President
Verlinda Prior**

Installation will be just a pleasant memory by the time you read this. Thank you to all who attended and

helped in any way. The Sidney Rodeo was a blast. Thank you, Past Department President Rosie Hall for being the gracious hostess that you are. Touring the museum was an adventure looking into the past. Our program workshop was well attended. If my adding is correct, we had 57 there that day. The building we were able to use was just awesome. All on one level, parking no problem, and the meeting room set up was wonderful. Being able to use technology was quite an asset.

Now we are gearing up for our own District workshops and District Conferences. Remember to put a huge smile on your face and treat all with kindness. Make everyone feel welcome.

My projects this year are Wreaths Across America and Quilts of Valor. Both of these projects honor a veteran in a unique way. One by the awarding of a Quilt and the other by always saying their name so they are never forgotten. Remember BE THE ONE. You can make a difference with just one phone call. Reach out to check on the veterans in your area.

SMILE, it will come back to you in unimaginable ways.



**2024-2025
Auxiliary Vice President
Kim Dixon**

Hello. My name is Kim Dixon. I was elected the Department of Iowa Vice President at the 2024 Department Convention. I am a 24 year member of the Harry L. Anderson Unit 34 and live in the 5th District.

I am eligible for the American Legion Auxiliary through the service of my father, Gene Phillips who was in the Army and my husband, Steve Dixon who served in the Navy. Steve and I have been married for 34 years and have one daughter Randie, who is also an auxiliary member and soon going to make us first time grandparents.

Being retired I love to travel and spend time with family and friends. I am a member of the Central United Methodist Church, Daughters of the American Revolution, Friends of Mahaska County Conservation Board, and volunteer at the Oskaloosa Middle School.

I am very excited to work with President Verlinda and other leaders in our Auxiliary and learn all I can as Department Vice President. I am looking forward to seeing all of you at auxiliary events this year. I am truly honored to represent the Auxiliary working side by side with others in the Legion Family to honor and serve our veterans.



**2023-2024
Auxiliary President
Mary Sypherd**

American Legion family members, Thank you. Thank you for supporting me this past year as Department President. For your hospitality at your District Conferences, Unit/Post meetings and Celebrations.

For supporting my projects; Miracles in Motion and Castaways and your generous donations. The Vietnam Veterans in Memory fund, honoring those who passed away from their service (not during their service). For supporting the National Officers with the Be The One initiative.

This was a journey I had been looking forward to for several years, and this year made it a reality.

I enjoyed my year working with Commander Stan, Commander Jim, Rider Chair Cliff, and HJ president Amara.

Looking forward to National Convention, see you all in New Orleans.

**Thank you for all the memories.
"Hats off to our Veterans"**



Iowa American Legion Auxiliary Girls State

Girls State, a premier program of the auxiliary is coming alive in 2025. The time is now to consider sending a girl or more to the 79th session in June. Reminder any organization can help sponsor the attendee(s), but the American Legion Post or Auxiliary Unit must write the check to pay the fee of \$400.00, per attendee.

Select an attendee that is both mentally and physically able to withstand the strenuous week. Check the 2025 bluebook for specific criteria and guidelines for your choice.

Unit or post reservations will be utilized by using the Camp Wise program in 2025. Sign in with your user ID and password that you used in 2023/2024, then go ahead as instructed. If your unit did not register before, you will need to do it then you can continue. Do not let this process keep you from taking part in the Girls State program. This process is only as hard as you make it.

Volunteer Staff please fill out a staff application as soon as applications open up. Monetary donations for the field trip transportation, incidentals, and staff meals before Drake opens the dining hall for Girls State are handy.

The earlier fundraising efforts have helped the fee to remain the same. Watch for Mid-Winter Fundraiser details.

Contact a member of the Girls State Board with concerns. Information is in the 2025 bluebook.

On behalf of the Board- thank you for your past and continuing support of this premier program of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Bev Copple, Director

Education

It's time for the school bells to be ringing as all ages of students are preparing for the new school year. All units can participate in the "Give 10 to Education". Contact your local schools to see what their needs are before collecting items. You can keep track throughout the year with the Give 10 to Education suggested donation tracking sheet found on the National website. Have members bring 10 items to each monthly unit meeting as a project that all members can be involved in. American Education Week is November 18-22. This would be a great time to bring in a basket or backpack full of school supplies! Teacher Appreciation Week is May 5-9, 2025. Their many hands touch so many students in their lifetime of learning so don't forget to recognize them during this week with apples, cookies, or treats of some sort. Is there a backpack program in your area? This is a great program to be involved with. Backpacks are packed with food items so no child will go hungry. Once again contact the school to see if they are a participant with such a program.

**Donna Flewelling, Department of Iowa Education Chairman,
flewellingdj@gmail.com**



1st District President Joyce Williams

Thank you for putting your trust in me for another year. I hope to serve as best I can. One of my goals this year is to visit more units. By only having 3 county units, I haven't had the opportunity to connect with everyone. I feel I have many more of our Legion Family

to meet. So please invite me to one of your meetings. After Department convention, installation and the Department Programs workshop, our 1st District's workshop was held on August 10th. It was a very good day and meeting. There was a good attendance and great questions and comments. Thank you to all that came.

Plans are in the works for our Fall Conference which will be held on October 19th at the West Point Post. Registration will start at 8:00 A.M. with the meeting

beginning at 9:00 A.M. Please plan to attend.

Our family are members of the Allen Wright Hanft Post and Unit 100 in Columbus Junction. I have served a membership chair, treasurer and currently as President of Unit 100.

My project this year is again for the Iowa City VA. I want to raise fund to replace wheelchairs for the veterans.

For God and Country.
God Bless our Veterans



2nd District President Marlene Mertens

Congratulations to Second District for coming in First Place in membership standings at Department Convention July 20th! You all did a fantastic job! Membership is a focus this year, I encourage everyone to remember "why" you joined this great organization and keep recruiting/renewing

those memberships.

Special thank you to Past Second District President Teresa Kramer for her service and mentorship.

Workshops have been held, new friendships made, tips, and great ideas shared. I walked away excited with ideas to enhance support of our veterans, active military service personnel and their families.

Second District Fall Conference will be held October 5th at the Veterans Memorial Building in Cedar Rapids. Thank you to Cedar Rapids Moomey-Vogel Post #727 for hosting us. I'm looking forward to seeing many of

you at fall conference. Remember the socks!

My project this year is the Veterans' Homeless Outreach Program. Funds raised and/or new clothing donations will support the Cedar Rapids and Davenport CRRCs through the Iowa City VA Medical Center.

I'm honored to serve as your Second District President. Please feel free to reach out to me with questions or concerns. If I don't have the answer, I will find someone who does. We have a "wealth" of knowledge in our organization!



3rd District President Stacy Bane

Hello, I am Stacy Bane, the 2024-2025 3rd Dist. President.

I qualify for the Auxiliary through my dad, Kenton Butler-in country Korea, (Army) and my husband, Robert Bane-in country Vietnam (Navy). I have been

a member since the early 2000's and I have served as the State Center Unit Pres., Marshall county treasurer, and Marshall county Pres. I also served for nine years as the Auxiliary Department Hospital Rep., at the Iowa Veterans Home, in Marshalltown, Iowa.

I'm fortunate to live 15 miles from IVH, where i enjoy volunteering 2-3 days a week. I have received the Commandants Award, the Governors Award and, this past April, the Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award for volunteering, with over 7,000 hours.

My two projects this year are for a Wheelchair Recline for the beauty/barber shop at IVH, and getting the three pool tables recovered there. (There is no felt left on them!)

I have two children and five grandkids and i love spending time with each one! I'm nervous/excited to serve in my new position over this next year, alongside 3rd District Commander Del Shepard.

-for God and Country-



4th District President Susan Franzen

Greetings to all of the American Legion Family. My name is Susan Franzen and I am looking forward to a year of learning and serving the 4th District. I attended my first Department Convention and met so many dedicated members who helped to educate me about all the Programs and opportunities we have available to

enable us to serve Veterans and their families.

I am a member of Unit 691 in St. Lucas. My dad was a WWII Veteran. My brother, my husband and my son are also Veterans.

Starting off right now at membership time, I want to continue Past President Dee Onken's hard work toward growing our membership and turning in our renewals as soon as possible. We were in 1st Place two years ago and want to return to the top of the list! Together we can do this!

North Iowa and Southern Minnesota are hosting

a Veteran Stand Down on Sat. Sept. 28 in Mason City. You can get information about volunteering or services by emailing OperationGoldenHawk@gmail.com

The 4th District Fall Conference will be in Fairbank on Saturday, October 26th. We will meet at the Legion Hall of Post 552, at 109 E. Main St. The Auxiliary will hold a Silent Auction, so plan on some items to donate! I hope to see you there and look forward to attending meetings and events and the chance to meet the members of the 4th District. Thank you for all you do for Veterans and their families.



5th District President Tammi Quinlan

Hello 5th District! I am happy to be serving as your District President again! I hope everyone is enjoying their summer. Department Convention was great again this year. If you have never been to one,

you should go. I know you will not regret it. Our 5th District Fall Conference will be held on October 19th, 2024, in Newton at the Legion Post. I hope most can attend. I am preparing for my Workshop, which will be held on September 7th, 2024, in Deep River at the Legion Post. It will be a bit different this year as so many have to travel quite a distance. The Governing Documents Committee and the Finance Committee will meet at 9:00 a.m. with the Workshop following at

12:30 p.m. After the Workshop we will hold the Audit. This will save time and miles for several. Our project is carrying over from last year which our ultimate goal is to finance a Be The One billboard on Interstate 80 for a year. Again, 5th District Commander, Gary Quinlan and I are working together on this project. Please reach out with any questions you may have. Enjoy the rest of your summer and hope to see you all soon.

AMERICAN EMERGENCY FUND

Jackie Westover – AEF chairman

This year Mother Nature has been especially brutal to Iowa from tornadoes, straight winds, to historical flooding. Hard times can fall upon us at any moment. In a brief moment of time, your home, your belongings, and your life as you knew it may be wiped out. Are you prepared for this type of emergency?

The Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF) is a national grant assistance program that provides financial assistance to eligible members of the American Legion Auxiliary who have endured a significant financial setback as the result of an act of nature or other personal crisis. It is a grant up to \$3000 to eligible members who

received damage to their primary residence, been displaced/evacuated or experienced out of pocket emergency expenses because of mother nature or other personal hardship. Grants will not be granted to pay medical expenses, credit card debt or any other expenses not related to shelter or basic household utilities.

To be eligible to apply, membership needs to be up to date and maintained for a minimum of 3 years—2 consecutive years plus the current year. The application needs to be received by the National AEF dept within 6 months of the disaster and documentation will need to also be provided. Only 1 grant per grantee will be awarded in a 12-month period. If you have been impacted, the criteria and application is on the National American Legion

Auxiliary site. For more information and to download The Disaster or the Hardship Assistance Applications, go to the following website - <https://www.legion-aux.org/AEF>

The Auxiliary Emergency Fund is there for you. It is members helping members in a time of need. Be knowledgeable about the program, be aware of auxiliary members, who may need assistance, be generous in your donations and be creative

President Verlinda's theme this year is "Iowa's Many Hands of Service". In order to continue providing assistance to our members, we need the assistance of the many hands of Iowa and your generous support. Are you prepared if mother nature comes knocking on your door?



6th District President Jamie Barker

Greetings from 6th District! I'm excited to serve as your new 6th District President. I am a member of the Ames Unit #37 and am eligible through my grandfather, Karl Klawiter, who was in WWI. My

uncle was in Vietnam and didn't talk much about his military service so this further intrigued me and when my husband, Cliff, joined as a S.A.L. member before the Legion Act, I decided to join the Auxiliary to help

in any way possible. The story goes that I thought I might sign up for one committee, but the learning continues! The next thing I did was recruit my eligible friends and family members. Now, I humbly ask you to do the same. Please join a committee. Help with events at your local level. Recruit your family and friends. The more members we have, the more veterans we can help. We need each and every one of "Iowa's Many Hands of Service" to fulfill this mission.

My project this year is to raise funds for the Des Moines Homeless Veterans Stand Down. If you have never been to a stand down, I encourage you to visit one of them in Iowa. There are several others across

the state with the same mission. I've worked in the DOD tent for the last several years and we are always looking for volunteers, so if you'd like to volunteer for September 13, 14, 15 this year, please reach out and I can get you in touch with the coordinators. Next year, I will be excited to share the impact of our donations towards this project.

District 6 Conference will be held October 5 in Pleasantville at the Memorial Hall, 101 N Jefferson Street and I hope to see you there! Please reach me anytime at alasixthdistrict@iaslegion.org

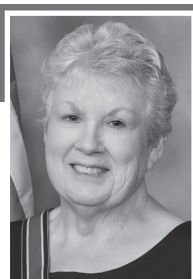


7th District President Rhonda Russell

Hello! My name is Rhonda Russell, and I am from Bedford, IA. I am currently serving as Unit Secretary for my unit, #164. My husband of

35 years is Jeff, and we have 4 kids and 3 grandkids from this union. I am an Advanced EMT for CHI Health and have been at the clinic for 31 years. The Fall Conference is in Bedford this year on October 14th, and I hope to see you there. I serve in lots of other community activities and help a lot with our unit. My President project is the Fisher House, and I

am thinking of fun and exciting ways to bring some money toward that. I am excited to see what this year will bring. I look forward to meeting everyone!



8th District President Phyllis Warren

Greetings from your 8th District American Legion Auxiliary President. I served as your 8th District President last year and I am returning for another year as your President, I want to thank

everyone for making last year very successful and supporting my project of a new projector for the Iowa Veterans Home. My project for this year will

again be for the Iowa Veterans Home. With the economy being what it is and the cutting of funding for programs and the increased cost of all items, the activities coordinator told me she is having trouble funding many recreation and entertainment events. The Veterans really enjoy hearing groups come and play music and entertain but outside music groups and performers need to charge more to cover their costs. This increase means fewer events. She also would like to be able to provide more events like birthday parties and ice cream socials, but the cost of these events has even increased. So, my project is to

collect funds to help provide more events to improve the Veterans' quality of life and provide for their enjoyment and uplift their spirits. All the projects selected by each district and former and present Department President's show our respect and care for our Veterans and the sacrifices they have made for all of us. Please support each project

The 8th District Fall conference will be held September 28, 2024, in Webster City at the American Legion Hall.



9th District President Linda Lux

Greetings from 9th District. I am Linda Lux, a member of the American Legion Auxiliary of Unit

#200 in Alton IA since 1995, thru my father Urban Dkykstra who served in the Army in WWII.

First, I would like to thank the members from the 53 units of the 13 counties, in the 9th, for entrusting me

to fulfill this position. Second, thank you to the ladies that are my officers and committee members. As I have held several offices in both the unit level, as well as county level, this will be a whole new ballgame for me. Along with my officers and committee people I have a boat load of mentors to help me. My projects this year are SF VA Chapel and Omaha VA 10th Floor Residential Rehabilitation and PICU. I will be choosing, in addition to those, the Midwest Honor Flight and Partners for Patriots.

It has been a busy start to my year, attending

orientation with Dept. President Verlinda Prior, receiving valuable information on what my year looks like. My first tasks were distributing membership packets to all units, and meeting with Ashton #290 to plan our Fall conference on October 5th. For the first time, I attended the Summer convention where I was officially installed. At the time of this article, I will have attended the Department Leadership Workshop and Program Workshop, and conducted Program Workshops for the units/counties in my district. One goal for me is to attend as many unit and or county meetings in my district.

Poppy contest under construction!

For immediate release:

The 2025 Department of Iowa Mid-Winter Poppy contest has gone under construction. New contests and challenges are expected. Included with this article are the 2025 Department of Iowa contests.

Contest 1: Unconventional item

Members are asked to utilize unconventional items and save the crepe paper traditional poppy for distribution. Unconventional items consist of (but are not limited to) Nuts, bolts, washers, balloons, beach balls or toys. The use of 'traditional' craft items (i.e. Yarn, fabric, Cricut) are acceptable if used in an unconventional way. The sizing of the project is completely up to the creator; however, the base may not be any larger than 1 ft square. Remember it must be transported to Des Moines! Creation of a poppy hat is acceptable; however, the hat base must be created with as many unconventional items as possible, a typical hat may not be used as the base so be creative.



Contest 2: Poetry

Poetry can be emailed or mailed to Dawn Aberle or brought to Mid-Winter convention and placed with the other contest items. All poetry entries will be given to President Verlinda as a memento of her year and the winner will receive a certificate.

Contest 3: Coloring

This contest will have specific photos to be colored for each judging category. Judging will be done on Saturday and all entries will be sent to one of the VAMC's for distribution to our fabulous veterans. Please watch the Department website and the Facebook page for coloring page files that can be downloaded. Crayons, colored pencils, paint, or markers can be used. Junior members under the age of 7 can color pictures and send them in, however they will not be judged.

Contest categories for all contests: (1) Junior Members aged 7-12 (2) Junior Members aged 13-18, (3) Senior Members, (4) ANY special needs member.

Contest judging will be at conference with winners announced on Saturday.

Make it work! Happy creating!
Dawn Aberle Poppy Chairman



Chaplain's Corner

Karen Ripperger, 2024-2025 Chaplain for the Department of Iowa American Legion Auxiliary. Thank you for your support as an endorsed, elected and installed candidate for Chaplain..

I am eligible through my deceased father, Neil Prueitt, My daughter, Megan, is a Captain in the United States Army. While my endorsement noted all of my ALA accomplishments, I like to pivot to my vision as Chaplain. I will do my best in praying for the upcoming year and everything we do to support our members, veterans, active military and families. With President Verlinda's theme of service, let's pray right now.

Dear Lord, each of you has received a gift to use to serve others. Be good servants of God's various gifts of grace (1 Peter 4:10). Continuing with this chapter, the next verse reads: "If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen." (1 Peter 4:11).

If you are serving as a Chaplain, the most important thing to remember is that the American Legion Auxiliary does not promote any one religion. While 1 Peter 4:11 references Jesus Christ, it's important to note that we want to be inclusive when it comes to religious affiliation and faith preferences.

Let's show kindness to each other and support the Chaplain role with what's detailed in the Programs Action Plan available at <https://iowaala.org/publications/>.

Please remember we can accomplish great things by serving others and showing kindness in all things that we do. God Bless America and our members, veterans, active military and their families.



ALA Historian Helen Hildebrand 2024-2025

I want to introduce myself to those that are new. I have been elected to serve as your historian this year. It is my duty as your elected Department Historian, to record events across our great state. Therefore, I need your help, so my data compiled for this year shows all the things we have done during the year.

What better way to report this than to record and report activities of our American Legion Auxiliary, and don't stop there, include the entire American Legion Family.

Let me know when you have done things like celebrations, participated in community events, where you bring attention to our organization. Take pictures, document the event with date, who participated, what were you celebrating, location of the event. If you publish something in the paper to bring awareness, send me a copy. If you participate in and display poppy posters, take a picture of the display and document this as Verlinda would love to have that included in her book of memories. If you incorporate Verlinda's theme, symbol, colors, and songs into your projects, report on it as well.

I want more than pictures when Verlinda or others came to visit, yes send them for sure, but remember you are making history when you gather and celebrate our mission of helping veterans. Write up an article about these things, as this is all history in the making. Send them to me, (address is listed in the Blue Book) as they can become part of the ALA History that will be documented and included in Verlinda's books for her to review and recall all the things happening across Iowa and beyond.

Remember the different scrapbook/history book contest. It can be a simple book, put together by hand, or it can be an electronic document of your year. Just remember to identify all the necessary information about the pictures. Remember, pictures are worth 1000 words, but if I don't know what you are saying, it will be hard for me to document or understand the "who, what, where, when, and why" of the pictures.

Just make sure to forward your year so I can document it for Verlinda.

Let remember to document this year and share the memories.

Department of Iowa Finance Team

Finance and Membership!!! The funds to operate the Department of Iowa programs depends upon the financial status of our Units and our Membership. Membership is key to our success. The Department Finance Committee sets up a budget to work with each year and depends on the Units to meet their obligations in order that we meet the necessary expenses of the Department.

The Department Budget is based on the projected membership goals and the required obligations. Some obligations change each year as we face increasing costs. Obligations are not an option, do not need to be voted on each year, but sent to the Department Office by October 20. Your Districts also rely on your Units. Please remember that portions of your obligations can be paid from poppy proceeds. Also, donations to many projects can be paid from poppy proceeds.

Please know that your Finance Committee is committed to helping the Department of Iowa run efficiently while providing the Membership with the tools necessary to carry our mission forward. Everything is based on Membership. Each and Every Member is a vital part of supporting our Veterans, their families, and our active-duty military. Each Member's dues supports the mission. Please recruit, retain, and rejoin members.

Ann Crawford, Chairman 1307 Iowa Ave Onawa, IA 51040 712-420-0607 anncraw11@gmail.com	Regina Chock 1936 H Ave Ogden, IA 50212 515-974-3145 regchock@gmail.com	Patti Rolf 1167 310th St Northboro, IA 51647 712-215-2399 patti_rolf@hotmail.com
--	--	---


DO IT *for* Your Community

Socks 2 Socks 3 Socks

The American Legion Family Sock Challenge

Commander Brian Ring
President Verlinda Prior
Detachment Commander Doug Honse

What:	When/Where:
New Crew and Tube Socks	Department of Iowa Mid Winter Convention
Size 8-12	February 14-16, 2024
White, Black, or Grey	Airport Holiday Inn Des Moines



Why:
Friendly Competition for the benefit of Homeless Veterans in Iowa through Stand Downs.
Bring your new socks in support of Iowa American Legion Family Leadership and see who comes out on top of the sock pile.



The American Legion of Iowa Foundation



Legion		William Penn University	2,000.00
American Legion of Iowa Boys State - Boys Nation	750.00	Americanism, Children & Youth	
American Legion of Iowa Boys State - Governor	500.00	Big Brothers Big Sisters of Cedar Rapids & East Central Iowa (BBBS)	1,500.00
American Legion of Iowa Boys State - Keith Baker	500.00	Camp Courageous	2,500.00
American Legion of Iowa Boys State- Outstanding Citizen	6,000.00	Children's Cancer Connection	2,000.00
American Legion of Iowa Junior Shooting Sports	2,250.00	ChildServe Foundation, Inc.	1,000.00
American Legion of Iowa Oratorical Committee	2,250.00	Essex Child Center	600.00
Iowa American Legion Scouting Committee	2,250.00	Everybody Wins! Iowa	500.00
American Legion of Iowa Baseball Committee	1,500.00	Hand in Hand	1,000.00
American Legion of Iowa Fifth Grade Flag Essay Contest - Children & Youth Committee	500.00	Hawkeye Area Council, Boy Scouts of America	1,000.00
Auxiliary		Heart of Iowa Big Brothers Big Sisters	1,056.00
American Legion Auxiliary - Junior President	250.00	Inspiration Hills Camp & Retreat Center	1,000.00
Iowa American Legion Auxiliary Girls State - Governor	500.00	Lutheran Services in Iowa	1,000.00
American Legion of Iowa Auxiliary Junior Camp	2,500.00	Marine Cadets of Iowa, Inc.	1,500.00
Iowa American Legion Auxiliary Girls State - Outstanding Citizen	6,000.00	Northeast Iowa Council, BSA	500.00
Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation		The Community Academy	1,000.00
Clinton Community College Paul B. Sharar Foundation	2,000.00	Waterloo East High School JROTC	500.00
Des Moines Area Community College Foundation	2,000.00	Community Service	
Des Moines Homeless Veterans Stand Down	2,000.00	Dress for Success Quad Cities	500.00
Greater Des Moines Habitat for Humanity	1,000.00	Friends of Marshall County Conservation (FMCC)	1,000.00
Hawkeye Community College	2,000.00	Holy Cross & North Buena Vista Fire Dept Inc	650.00
His Hands Free Clinic	2,000.00	Iowa Legal Aid	1,000.00
Iowa Lakes Community College	2,000.00	Iowa Military Veterans Band, Inc.	4,000.00
Iowa Veterans Home	7,500.00	Iowa Radio Reading Information Service for the Blind and Print Handicapped, Inc. (IRIS)	520.00
Kirkwood Community College Foundation	2,000.00	LifeSkills Training Center, Inc	470.00
Luther College	2,000.00	Link Associates	1,577.17
Northeast Iowa Community College Foundation	2,000.00	Mills County Public Health	1,500.00
Northwest Iowa Community College	2,000.00	MIW, INC (Mid-Iowa Workshops, Inc)	2,184.34
Quad City Veterans Outreach Center	1,000.00	Mosaic in Central Iowa	1,000.00
Southeastern Community College Foundation	2,000.00	New Hope Foundation	1,000.00
University of Dubuque	2,000.00	One Vision	1,854.64
University of Northern Iowa Foundation	2,000.00	RSVP of Jasper County	1,600.00
Upper Iowa University	2,000.00	Veterans Liberty Center	2,000.00
Wartburg College	2,000.00		

TOTAL AWARDED: \$108,748.06



The American Legion of Iowa Foundation



2023-2024 Iowa Foundation Donors

Individual Donors

Charlie Becker
 Samuel Blumer
 Ann Crawford
 Dawn Aberle
 Steve & Kim Dixon
 Kelly Elliott
 Stanley & Joyce Elliott
 Bruce Feuerbach
 Scott & Collette Ford
 Gayle Hagle
 Dorothy Hall
 Henry J Grubb
 Barry & Pat Hiller
 Bruce Jeffries
 Samuel Johnson
 James Kessler
 Fritz Kies
 Alida Kolthoff
 Steven Malmquist
 Dr. Dan McClure
 Steve Neal
 Bob Onken
 Eugene Poppe
 Dave Rehbein
 David Renfeldt
 Brian Ring, Sr.
 Ed Rohner
 Jim & Lu Rolfes
 Dennis & Jayne Soppe
 Michael Treinen
 Bob Waugh
 Jim Zacharias

American Legion Posts & Districts

Post 67
 Post 29
 Post 37
 Post 132
 Post 342
 Post 396
 4th District
 9th District

American Legion Auxiliary Units & Districts

Unit 37
 Unit 357
 3rd District
 Junior Activities
 9th District

Sons of The American Legion

Squadron 37
 Squadron 241
 SAL Detachment

Other Donors & Organizations

Legion Foundation Golf Tournament
 NE Iowa Charitable Foundation
 Liberty Diversified International

**Thank you
 for your
 thoughtful
 generosity
 and contributions
 to the
 Foundation!**

Levels of Recognition for Donors

The Eternal Flame Society allows for recognition of donors at multiple levels for their specific contributions. You will be recognized at each plateau as you achieve that level.

The Booster Program

Supporter - A donation between \$1,000 and \$1,999.

Sentinel - Donations between \$2,000 and \$2,999.

Sterling - Donations between \$3,000 and \$3,999.

Statesman - Donation between \$4,000 and \$4,999.

Sponsor - Donations between \$5,000 and \$9,999.

The Pinnacle Program

Guardian - A donation between \$10,000 and \$24,999.

Benefactor - Donations between \$25,000 and \$49,999.

Patron - Donations between \$50,000 and \$99,999.

The Philanthropic Society has been established to effectively recognize major donors who make contributions in excess of \$100,000.

Bronze Members - Donations between \$100,000 and \$249,999.

Silver Members - Donations between \$250,000 and \$499,999.

Gold Members - Donations in excess of \$500,000.

The Foundation would like to thank our many generous donors who make this a possibility!

Contributions to The American Legion of Iowa Foundation

Name(s): _____ Home or Business Phone: _____ Mobile Phone: _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

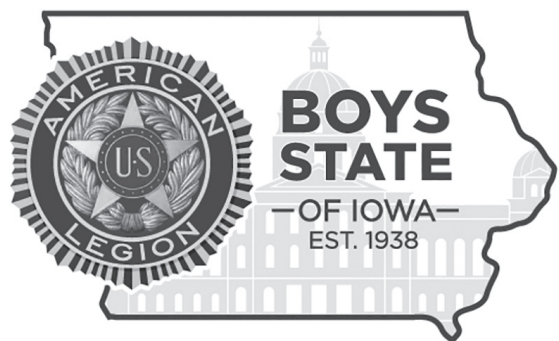
Please credit (circle or more): The American Legion The Auxiliary SAL Individual District # _____

My Gift is in Honor of: _____ In Memory of: _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please make check payable to: The American Legion of Iowa Foundation
 Mail to: Iowa American Legion Foundation - 720 Lyon St. - Des Moines, Iowa 50309
 Phone: (800) 365-8387

Gifts to The American Legion of Iowa Foundation are tax deductible to the full extent permitted by law.



Boys State and Nation Wrap Up

The American Legion of Iowa Boys State completed its session at Camp Dodge. Boys State is proud of the delegates that participated and finished the session. While all delegates should be listed, Boys State would like to recognize the following individuals in their selections and offices:

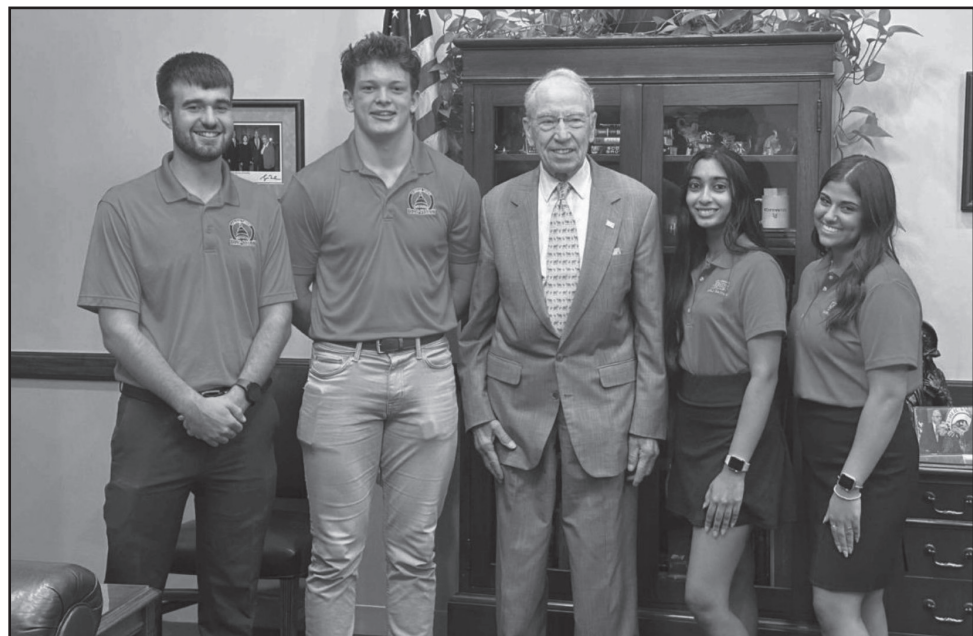
- Matthew Hardy of Lohrville was selected as Boys State Governor.
- Caleb Kalkwarf of Pella was selected as the Outstanding Citizen.
- Hayden Bange of Keystone was selected as Boys State Lt. Governor.
- Jacob Bishop of Sioux City was selected to represent Iowa as Senator at Boys Nation.
- Matthew Hardy of Lohrville was selected to represent Iowa as Senator at Boys Nation.

Boys State looks forward to next year. To all the American Legion Post Adjutants, please be on the lookout for information regarding the 2025 session. Department Headquarters will begin to take post reservations for 2025 American Legion of Iowa Boys State Program soon. The dates next year have been set for Sunday, June 22 - Friday, June 27, 2025. Posts will need to make a post reservation online. Each Post Adjutant will receive information regarding the Post Reservation and Delegate Registration processes along with some changes. Please do not disregard this letter and information as it may delay your process. If your post does not have a computer, find someone who does and ask them to help.

As a reminder, Post Reservations have a flat fee of \$400 per delegate regardless of date.

TIMETABLE AND DEADLINES

- October – Post Reservations open. A Post Chairman’s Guide will be made available online to guide you through the candidate selection process.
 - January 15, 2025 – Online only Delegate Registration opens. Instructions for candidates to register were provided to posts via email after they completed their online Post Reservation. Samsung Scholarship Applications will be made available through the National website once available.
 - April 1, 2025 - Post Refund Request Deadline - Requests must be completed online at www.ialegion.org/refunds no later than this date.
 - April 1, 2025 - Delegate Registration Cut Off – This is the LAST day for candidates to register. No exceptions will be made for post or candidate negligence.
 - March-May 2025 - District Orientations will take place (see Department website or your district’s chairman for more details).
 - June 22-27, 2025 - The American Legion Boys State Program held at Camp Dodge in Johnston, Iowa.
- Any further inquiries may be directed to your District Chairman who can be found online at www.ialegion.org/boysstate.



Chuck Grassley’s Office

AMERICANISM

The general election in November is coming, will you vote or expect others to vote for you and make the right choices like you would? I pray that your time of service in your Countries uniform had some type of meaning and importance to you. Hopefully one of the main reasons was to protect our form of Government and the right to vote, to make a choice in the form of Government, and the right to be free!! Americanism and Patriotism are lacking in our schools and society, those two words alone should make each of us veterans want to and express our right to vote and choose. When no one cares about these two words, they tend not to care or think that voting is important. Soon our form of Government and our Freedoms slowly start to disappear, as if they are already headed in that direction. Each year we see our elected officials, both Federal and State want to be more involved in how we live and what we can and cannot do. I ask you is that Democracy the start of Socialism or other forms of a Dictating styles of Government. Each year it seems some type of legislation is passed to restrict what we the people can do. One right is our various states have limited the hours and days of absent tee voting and where they can be delivered to and restrictions on mailing in ballots. Everyone needs to pay attention and express our views, and thoughts to those we choose to elect in representing we the people. We need to study the candidates, ask questions in hopes of making the right choice.

Commander Ring SR. the pleasure is mine to serve you in this capacity of Department Americanism Chairmen during your Department Commander Year.

For God and Country

James Kessler Department Americanism Chairmen



Department CDR Brian Ring Sr.,
The Outstanding Citizen Scholarship
recipient Caleb Kalkwarf



2024 Flag Essay Contest

The top three Fifth Grade Flag Essay Contest winners attended the Department Convention and read their essays and received their awards. Congratulations to them all.

1st Place (\$500) – Bently Ernst, Bellevue Elem Legion Post #273, 2nd District

2nd Place (\$300) – Athan Denton, Boyer Valley Elem Legion Post #444, 8th District

3rd Place (\$200) – Hailey Geraghty, AHSTW Legion Post #227, 7th District

Statewide we had 100 posts submitted essays, out of them, there were 4,033 entries. We commend all the youth and posts for participating.

The Department C & Y 2024 awards were presented at the Department Convention. The Most Outstanding Overall winner was the Marion Post 298, and the Overall runner-up was the Stuart Post 146. Category 1 (Membership 15-99) Overall winner: Slater Post 260, Category 2 (membership 100-299) Overall winner Blue Grass Post 711, Category 3 (Membership 300-499) Overall winner Urbandale Post 663 and Category 4 (Membership 500 plus) Overall winner Marion Post 298.

Cindy Yslas, Chair
C&Y Dept. of Iowa

General Information

The purpose of The American Legion of Iowa Essay Contest is to develop a deeper knowledge and appreciation for the United States Flag on the part of elementary-level students. Other objectives of the contest include the ability to gain knowledge of flag etiquette and respect for the flag.

Awards:

Each of the three Department finalists will be recognized in the same manner as other youth champions and the top three winners will be invited to read their winning essays at the Department Convention. First, Second, and Third Place winners will receive \$500, \$300, and \$200, respectively, from The American Legion of Iowa and the Iowa Foundation.

Contests:

Local contests will be conducted and judged by the local sponsoring Legion Post, and the winning essay, along with the certification form completed, will be forwarded as follows:

1. Individual Legion Posts will forward one winning entry (please retain a copy) to their District Children and Youth Chairperson, with a signed Participation Application, postmarked by January 5th of the current program year. If the 5th falls on a weekend, then postmarked by the next business day.

2. District entries will be judged by the respective District Children and Youth Chairperson, and sent to Department Headquarters, postmarked by January 22nd of the current program year. If the 22nd falls on a weekend, then postmarked by the next business day.

3. Department Children and Youth Committee will judge the nine District entries at Mid-Winter Conference, immediately following the Americanism meeting.

Essay:

The format for the essay is limited to the following: A one (1) page document containing 300 words or less, double-spaced, 12-point font, and the student's own words and effort. The essay is to reflect the student's perspective of what the United States Flag represents to them using facts from the United States Flag Code.

Eligibility:

Participants shall be citizens of or lawful permanent residents of the United States. All contestants must be students enrolled in the fifth grade in a public, parochial, military, private, or state-accredited home school.

For more information go to: www.ialegion.org/flag-essay.

2024 Iowa Legionnaire of the Year

The Art McLaughlin Legionnaire of the Year award was presented to Curt Rosener of Des Moines Iowa.

Curt is a veteran of the Iowa National Guard (1995-2003), Curt first joined Milford Post 384 of the American Legion in 2001. In 2020, he transferred to Highland Park Post 374, where he has served as Executive Committee member, 2nd Vice Commander, 1st Vice Commander, and member of the Post Honor and Color Guards. In 2023, to further serve veterans, Curt joined AMVETS Post 2, becoming their 2nd Vice Commander for 2023-2024.

Curt, a Paid Up For Life member, is an outstanding representative of veterans and his community.



Lucas County Boy Scout Troop 149 teamed up with Chariton's Carl L Caviness Post 105 this past June to conduct a flag retirement ceremony at the Lucas County Veteran's Memorial



Commander Bob Phillips and Veterans Leroy Terrell and Bill Howie Prepare Flag for Retirement - Bill Howes Photo



Boy Scout Troopmaster Mark Richardson along with Scouts Lucas Anderson and Landon Travis Salute Flag as it is being Retired - Bill Howes Photo



2024 JSSP Department Winner Kiria Hallett

2024 State Championship

The results were:

First overall:

- Kiria Hallett 1st with 531
- Ella Evan's 2nd with 530-16
- Cael Olsen 3rd with 530-15

Kiria was winner of age group 1

Ella was 2nd age group 1

Harry Brenneman was 3rd

Cael Olsen was first in age group 2

Charlee Harris was first in age group 3

Have had calls from 3 post with interest in starting JSSP Programs.

I talked to a gentleman on the west side of Iowa and gave Gary Whipple the contact information to follow up my conversation with him.

I talked with Barry Hatch in Central City, and they are still looking at starting a program.

Also talked with Louis Young and gave him Bob Firien's contact info for the 10 plus rifle and support gear that he has for sale.

Anyone interested in starting a program please don't hesitate to call me.

Gary Palas
JSSP Chairman

MEMBERSHIP

Membership is everyone's mission. The first part is retaining the members we already have. This includes the Post members in nursing homes. Those members may need help to pay their dues, they were the backbones of the posts in years past, now is the time to help them and keep them legion. The second part is to recruit new members. We need to "JUST ASK". Then get them involved at their comfort level, be welcoming and mentor them in the legion. Remember personal contact by Posts members is the best way to ensure renewals.

To help Posts do this we are continuing last year's incentives. The 2025 Commander's Membership Incentive: 8 Department of Iowa members' names will be drawn from a list of those who have paid their dues by 31 December 2024. There will be a \$250 monetary award. Eligibility for the drawing will be all active members: renewals, PUFL, online and new members. For the Posts, for the Membership year 2025, 8 Department of Iowa Posts will be drawn from a list of those who have attained 100% on 15 May 2025. There will be a \$250 monetary award. We will provide Certificates to Posts exceeding 95% of eligible renewals and Plaques for 100%. More details to follow as we finalize criteria.

Districts and Posts need to encourage online renewals and the posts are encouraged to use my legion.org for their membership submissions to save time and money.

The Department and the Commander will be sending out a letter/email to those who have not renewed by the end of October. By that time last year only 7000+ had not renewed. This letter will mention the potential savings in time if members do auto renewal. It will also include information on the Service Office.

Remember let us "JUST Ask" our fellow veterans to joins us in helping those who have served.

IOWA BOYS STATE: ENGAGING AND GROWING OUR FUTURE LEADERS

Iowa Boys State 2024 was an outstanding experience for all involved, with approximately 250 delegates attending, making it one of the most engaged groups to date. This was promoted through the introduction of the Boys State Cup, a friendly competition between cities to encourage participation in elections, government operations, and good citizenship practices. The Cup helped foster a spirit of camaraderie and leadership among the delegates while navigating the challenges of civic and community management.

This year, we also launched a Public Affairs program to enhance our social media presence, marketing and recruitment efforts, further strengthening our outreach. We are excited to grow this new aspect of our program to continue to meet our delegates "where they are at" on social media and improve overall awareness of our unique program. Be sure to like or follow us through our Facebook page @ facebook.com/IowaBoysState to learn and share more about what we are doing.

We had a great group of dedicated Counselor Staff, including the most junior counselors we've seen in recent years! Without this group of selfless individuals, we would not be able to operate effectively. If you see a member of our Boys State Staff, please thank them for their involvement and continued service. As a sign of their dedication, together with the Boys State Delegates, they raised over \$4,000 for the Boys State Endowment, reflecting the commitment to supporting future leaders and growing our program.

Our hosts, the Iowa National Guard, provided top-notch facilities and activities, including the LRC (Leadership Reaction Course), rappel tower, and a static display of equipment. These opportunities gave the delegates valuable lessons in teamwork and leadership while highlighting the Iowa National Guard's role in serving our communities. The week also featured an inspiring Motivational Speaker Series, where life lessons were shared, encouraging the delegates to face future challenges head-on.

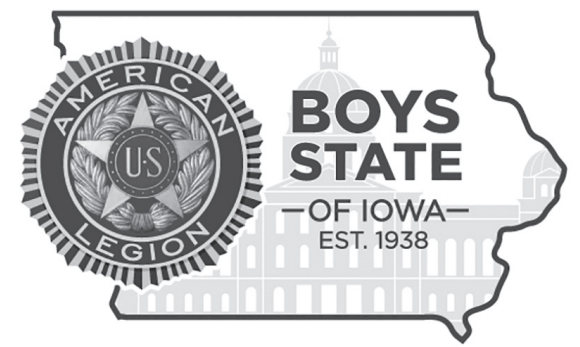
This is what Legion Post 45 Historian Harold Blatt, who also attended Boys State as a counselor, told the Manchester Press about his experience joining the 7 delegates sent from his post. "Boys State has a lot of benefits not only to the participants but also to the community," Blatt shared. "The purpose is to develop good citizenship but also leadership skills. After a week, you see so much growth in these young people that is just amazing. They are ready to come back here and do great things."

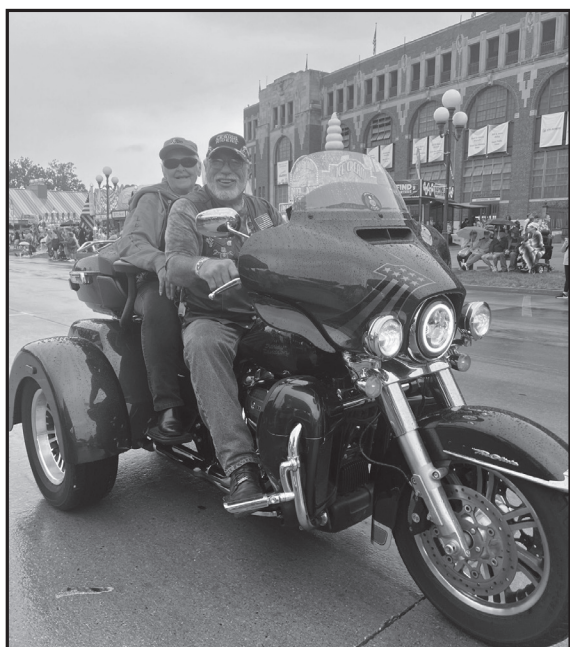
Despite these successes, we need more boys to attend Boys State, as only half of our 500 available slots were filled this year. To accomplish our goals, it all starts with you and your posts. If costs or access to potential delegates is an issue, please contact Eric Less at Department Headquarters for assistance. Let's work together to continue showcasing this impactful program.

Mike Vaughn
Boys State Director

Mahlon Conaway Post #99

from left to right. Scott Potter Minburn Post 99 Commander, Crystal Wright, 6th District Vice Commander, Mahlon Conaway, Don De Kock, 6th District Commander, and Bob Conlon Department Vice Commander.





Oratorical 2024

It was a great pleasure to introduce Karli Roth, our State Constitutional Oratorical Champion, to all that attended the State Convention in Des Moines. Karli has been an amazing representative for the Dept. of Iowa in all that she does. She advanced to the National Finals in Hillsdale Michigan, held May 17-19, 2024, at Hillsdale College, where she gave her State Champion Oration, competing against 51 other Dept. Champions. Although not advancing after the first round, Karli did an outstanding job, and I'm sure we will see more of her in the future. The competition is tough at this level, and you would be surprised to see how many individuals win by 1 point or a fraction of. It would be very difficult being a judge at this level.

After 2 rounds of competition, it was narrowed to 3 finalists, Depts. of Indiana, Kentucky and Washington, who gave their orations on Sunday morning on May 19. Aubrey Moore, a homeschool Sophomore from Renton, Washington won a \$25,000 scholarship with her 1st place finish with her speech, "WHY FREEDOM OF SPEECH IS IN DANGER". Knox Boyd of Lafayette, Indiana won a \$22,500 scholarship with his 2nd place speech, "OUT OF MANY, ONE". David Daniel of Owensboro, Kentucky wo a \$20,000 scholarship with his 3rd place speech, "RUNNING FOR FREEDOM".

We have the deadline dates set for 2024-2025 Contest as follows: Local Contests must be completed by Dec. 1, 2024, and County Contests completed by Dec. 16, 2024, and District Contests must be completed by Jan. 5,2025 and Area Contests be completed by Jan. 19,2025. The Dept. Finals will be held on Sunday, Feb. 16, 2025, at 8:00 AM during our Mid-Winter Conference. If you are a District Chair for the Oratorical Contest, please be able to find locations for your contests and if your District is to host the Area Contest, please find dates, time and locations appropriate for the contest. Let me know as soon as possible about this schedule, so I may publish them for all to know.

Let's get out and beat the bushes as soon as school starts, to give the students ample time to prepare their speeches. Talk to parents, teaching staff and administrators so they know what a wonderful opportunity is awaiting our youth with this program. Even Grandparents, Aunts and Uncles can influence the participation rate.

This is a great program and such an opportunity for our young people to learn about the "GREATEST DOCUMENT" written by our forefathers and why this has held this country together for nearly 250 years. I'm asking every post to put your best foot forward and give every highschooler this chance to express their feelings and understanding of why this was written the way it is.

Looking forward to a good year and if anyone has questions or needs assistance with this, please notify me at: email bobwaugh89@gmail.com or phone 641-919-0042. I thank you in advance for your efforts.

Bob Waugh
Dept. Oratorical Chmn.

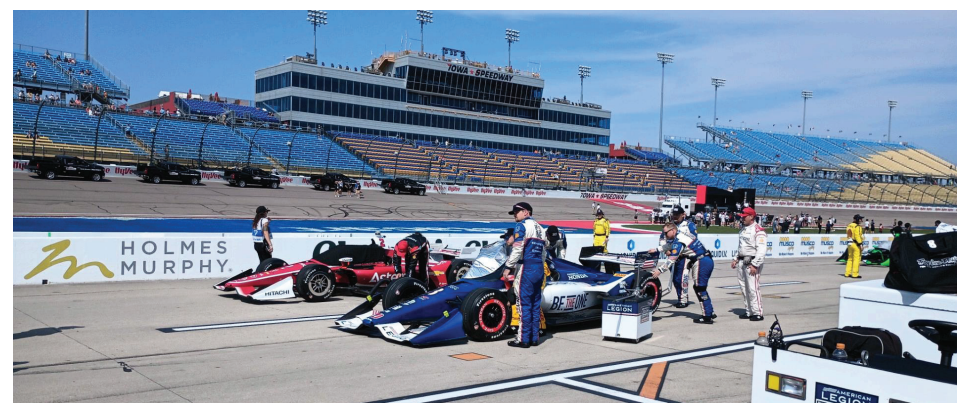
INDYCAR Race Weekend



The American Legion's mobile marketing booth made its way back to the Iowa Speedway. The booth's new layout this year was fantastic. The new design brought an increase in foot traffic. Another new addition this year was the "Fast Pass", which moved any veteran to the front of the line for an autograph. We chose ten lucky veterans for the "Fast Pass" and heard nothing but praise. The heat was in full force, so our booth provided free water refills to anyone who needed water.



We also gave new items to current and new members as we were able to tell them about what the American Legion does for them. The Legion Riders of Iowa went above and beyond by providing the Ganassi haulers' escorts around the track. Thank you to the Legion Riders for your continued support. This is reserved for Iowa and a great way to show everyone how we do things in Iowa. Your Department Service Office was at the track each day to answer questions and was able to provide support for those veterans who had questions. We couldn't do any of this without great volunteers. We have many volunteers and are always looking to add to the list, so please get in contact with your Department Service Office to become a volunteer!



A STAR-SPANGLED SALUTE
 *** THE ONLY ONE OF ITS KIND ***
 ★ **A FREE CONCERT** ★
 BY THE **IOWA MILITARY VETERANS BAND**
 DIRECTED BY JAMES E. GOODWIN
 SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2024 • 2 PM
 CIVIC CENTER of DES MOINES @ 221 WALNUT St., DES MOINES, IA
 HONORING IOWA MILITARY MEN AND WOMEN — PAST AND PRESENT
www.iowamilitaryveteransband.com