

THE AMERICAN LEGION OF IOWA - DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS REPORT DISTRICT SPRING CONFERENCES 2025

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES – HF 909

The American Legion of Iowa's top legislative priority for this session of the Iowa Legislature is funding for Veterans Service Organizations representing veterans with the VA claims. Please contact your representative and ask for support of **House File 909** (formerly HSB 243).

HF 909 was passed by the House Veterans Affairs Committee and must now pass through the appropriation process.

The American Legion supports providing an annual appropriation to support the operation of the Service Offices of the nationally chartered Veterans Service Organizations (VSO). VSO Service Offices provide claims assistance to veterans seeking benefits from the Veterans Benefits Administration.

It has become more difficult for the VSOs to provide the needed level of assistance to veterans with claims for compensation from the VA due to reduced revenue of the organizations and the increasing number of claims for VA benefits. The appropriation in the form of matching grants would be used to increase the number of professional service officers supporting Iowa's veterans and Iowa's county veterans service offices.

You can find your legislator at <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/find>.

The full bill is available to read at <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ba=HF909&ga=91>.

Visit the department's website for legislative information at <https://www.ialegion.org/legislative/>.

BOYS STATE

The American Legion of Iowa Boys State program will be held June 22-27, 2025, at Camp Dodge. Delegates must check-in before 12:00 pm (noon) on Sunday, June 22.

Legionnaires and guests are invited to attend the final assembly on Friday, June 27, at 12:00 pm. The final assembly includes the announcements of scholarship winners and the Boys Nation Senators.

Updates are available from your District Boys State Chair or Board Member. Make sure your delegates attend a District Orientation and are aware of any transportation arrangements your district or post may be making. Keep in close contact with your Boys State Delegates and your District Boys State Chair or Board Member.

BOYS STATE REGISTRATIONS

The deadline for Boys State registrations has been extended to June 1! We are in desperate need of registration for the 2025 Boys State program. Without them, the survival of the program is questionable. Boys State in Iowa has existed since 1938, teaching young men the importance of citizenship and patriotism. It is one of The American Legion's most revered programs. Please do your part to strengthen this program to make it available for generations to come.

BOYS STATE COUNSELORS NEEDED

Since 1938 the Iowa Department of the American Legion has sponsored over 60,000 participants in the Boys State program. Our success would not be possible without a dedicated volunteer staff of American Legion members and former Boys Staters. We are always in need of good counselors who are called to serve our program and help foster tomorrow's community leaders. If you are interested in serving, learn more at <https://www.ialegion.org/boysstate/> or contact Department Headquarters.

THE AMERICAN LEGION OF IOWA - DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS REPORT DISTRICT SPRING CONFERENCES 2025

CONSOLIDATED POST REPORTS

The Consolidated Post Reports (CPR) will be mailed to each Post Adjutant on record in March. The Consolidated Post Report must be returned on the correct annual form to Department Headquarters or submitted through myLegion.org (preferred) before June 15 to be considered for Department Community Service and Children & Youth Awards. Posts wishing to be considered for Community Service and Children & Youth Awards need to provide a narrative of their activities with their CPR submission. Narratives may be submitted separately if your post's CPR is submitted electronically. Awards will be presented during the Department Convention.

LEGIONNAIRE OF THE YEAR

The Art McLaughlin Legionnaire of the Year nomination form is available online at <https://www.ialegion.org/loty>. There is no limitation on the number of applicants for each District. Nomination forms must be submitted to Department Headquarters before June 15.

STARS STRIPES SPIRIT 5K WALK/RUN – 1K WALK – COLOR RUSH RUN

The Stars Stripes Spirit 5k will be held on Armed Forces Day, Saturday, May 17, at Gray's Lake Park in Des Moines. There will be a 5K Walk/Run and a 1K Walk Option.

Registration is \$40 for adults and \$25 for U18s. The \$10 early registration discount ends on April 25.

Registration begins at 8:00 am with the Walk/Run starting at 9:00. Post event ceremonies will be held at 10:00.

Food, drinks and music will be available.

To register, visit the link below or scan the QR code with your mobile device.

We are also seeking volunteers for the event. Volunteers should visit the link below or scan the QR code.

Register to Participate

<https://www.starsstripesspirit.com/>



Volunteer to Help

<https://forms.office.com/r/nLu2Gu6iac>



EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

One of the goals of The American Legion has always been to work in cooperation with the schools that assist veterans, their families, and local communities. Iowa integrated the program into our Legion Family by developing a state program that recognizes those teachers.

Nomination forms, guidelines, and criteria for Education of the Year can be found online at www.ialegion.org/educator and must be received at Department by April 1, 2025.

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DISTRICT COMMANDER ORIENTATION – June 6, 2025

The District Commander Orientation will be held at Department Headquarters from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Friday, June 6. Lunch will be provided. This session is for 2025-2026 District Commanders and candidates for Department and Detachment Commander.

DEPARTMENT LEADERSHIP SCHOOL – June 6-8, 2025

The Department Leadership School will be held June 6-8, 2025, at the Holiday Inn Mercy Campus in Des Moines. The school will run on Friday from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.; Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; and Sunday from 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

The Department will cover the cost of six (6) attendees per District, one of which should be the incoming District Commander. This includes room (based on double occupancy), course materials, breakfast and lunch on Saturday and breakfast on Sunday. The Department will not reimburse attendees for mileage or per diem. District authorized attendees should register online at <https://www.ialegion.org/leadershipschool>.

Endorsed candidates for department and national offices are also invited to attend at Department expense. Candidates are in addition to the six allocated for each district. Candidates may register online at <https://www.ialegion.org/leadershipschool>.

Additional attendees from each district are allowed but will be required to pay for lodging. The Department will assist those attending at their own expense with finding roommates to help reduce the cost of attendance. Additional attendees may register online at <https://www.ialegion.org/leadershipschool>.

Any attendee requesting his/her own room will be required to pay an entire room charge of \$111.00 + tax.

Newly elected 2025-2026 District Commanders must submit the List of Authorized Attendees for your District before May 10, 2025. Individual registrations are due no later than May 15, 2025.

DEPARTMENT CONVENTION – JULY 18-20, 2025 – DES MOINES

All meetings will be held at the Holiday Inn Des Moines Airport and Conference Center. Ask for The American Legion rate when making reservations. Schedule will appear in the Iowa Legionnaire and will also be available on the department website. The Call to Convention and Post Delegate Strength information will be mailed to posts 30 days prior to the Department Convention.

Holiday Inn Des Moines Airport and Conference Center
6111 Fleur Dr.
Des Moines, IA 50321
(515) 287-2400

Rate: \$103.00 + tax

DEPARTMENT CONVENTION COMMITTEES

The Convention Committees will meet on the Friday of Department Convention at 1:00 p.m., except the Convention Place Committee, which meets on Saturday at 4:00 p.m. Each District must assign one representative to each of the Convention Committees. This assignment must be made at the Spring District Conference and reported to the Department immediately following your conference.

THE AMERICAN LEGION OF IOWA - DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS REPORT DISTRICT SPRING CONFERENCES 2025

DEPARTMENT COLOR GUARD COMPETITION

The Department Color Guard Contest will be held on the Saturday of Department Convention. Rules and entry forms are available online at <https://www.ialegion.org/convention>. Each entry form must be certified by the Adjutant of the unit's sponsoring Post or District. The contest entry form must be submitted to the Department before the close of the Color Guard Registration Meeting at Department Convention. Advance registration is encouraged and may be submitted to: The American Legion of Iowa, Color Guard Competition, 720 Lyon Street, Des Moines, IA 50309. The order of appearance in the contest will be in reverse order of receipt of entry form with earliest postmark.

The American Legion Department Color Guard Contest does not limit the number of units allowed to compete in the Contest from any Post, Unit or Squadron. All color guard members will be required to register for the Department Convention as a delegate, alternate or guest with The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, or Sons of The American Legion.

The contest has two competition classes, Military Open Class, and Advancing/Retiring of Colors Class.

Military Open Class - All units must be members of The American Legion and/or Legion Family (i.e. Sons of The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, or American Legion mixed participants). If competing for the Commander's Color Guard, all unit members competing in this class must meet all the requirements for American Legion membership and be over 18 years of age. The unit must be composed of seven (7) members or less including the Commanding Officer.

Advancing/Retiring of Colors Class - All units must be members of The American Legion and/or Legion Family (i.e. Sons of The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, or American Legion mixed participants). The unit must be composed of not less than four (4) members. If the color guard consists of only four (4) members, the American Flag bearer will give all color guard commands.

To be considered for the official Department Commander's Champion Color Guard of The American Legion, those units consisting of full Legion members must have competed in Military Open Class.

NATIONAL CONVENTION – AUGUST 22 – 28, 2025 – TAMPA BAY, FL

Delegates and Alternates to the National Convention will be elected at the Spring District Conference. If you are attending the National Convention as a Delegate or Alternate, please pick up a registration packet from the District Commander or the District Adjutant. The packet contains instructions, information, and registration forms. Forms are also available on the Department website at www.ialegion.org/nationalconvention. The deadline for National Convention registration is June 15.

Those not elected as Delegates or Alternates can attend the National Convention as a Guest. To receive a registration packet, contact Department Headquarters or use the forms available on our website at www.ialegion.org/nationalconvention.

The Department of Iowa will be housed in the Hotel Tampa Riverwalk. The room rate is \$129.00 + \$19.12 tax (13.5% + \$1.70 per room/night) for a total of \$148.12 per night for up to two occupants. Additional occupant per room is \$20.00 + tax with a maximum occupancy of four. Valet Parking is \$20.00/day.

The Iowa Party has not yet been determined.

The National Commander's Banquet will be Tuesday, August 26. Tickets are \$65.00 each. Entertainment will be provided. Tickets must be ordered in advance. Seating is limited.

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WALK FOR VETERANS – AUGUST 11, 2025

The American Legion Walk for Veterans will be during the Veterans Parade at the Iowa State Fair on Monday, August 11, 2025, at the Iowa State Fairgrounds. The parade begins at 11:00 am and participants are asked to be in the staging area between 7:00 am and 10:30 am.

Participants must register (free registration) with The American Legion of Iowa before July 21, 2025. The cost of a Walk for Veterans shirt is \$20.00. All walk participants must wear The American Legion Walk for Veterans shirt and must pre-register. All parade participants will receive free entry into the Iowa State Fair after the parade. Parking is not included.

Registration Forms, Information, and Updates:

Information, instructions, and forms are available on our website. For more information, please contact The American Legion of Iowa by phone at 800-365-8387, by email at teresa@ialegion.org, or view online at www.ialegion.org/wfv.

NATIONAL LEGION COLLEGE FOR 2025 CLASS

The 2025 Legion College class is scheduled for November 16-21, 2025. The 2025 student application will be available at <https://www.legion.org/information-center/training/legion-college>.

The Department of Iowa is currently seeking two candidates. The prerequisites to apply for the National American Legion College are as follows: all candidates must be a member in good standing, be a member for a minimum of three continuous years, have completed Basic Training online with a certificate dated after August 2016 and must be vetted and endorsed by their department leadership. Basic Training can be completed at <https://register.legion.org/alei>.

Class of 2025 student applications are due no later than July 1, 2025, to Department Headquarters. Applications must be reviewed and endorsed by the department before the national deadline.

THE AMERICAN LEGION BASIC TRAINING

The American Legion's official training program for officers, members, Legion College applicants and those who simply want to expand their knowledge of the nation's largest veterans service organization is available online.

Already taken the old course. The American Legion Extension Institute has been rewritten, updated, streamlined, and enhanced with videos, digital photos, clickable links, a historical timeline, and additional features. The program should take less than two hours to complete. It is divided into six sections, with a quiz at the end of each one, followed by a final exam.

Visit <https://register.legion.org/alei> for more information and to begin the course.

AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL

Senior teams will be competing in 1 of 4 Area Tournaments on April 19-20 and April 26-27 in different locations of the state. Winners will advance to the State Tournament scheduled for Saturday & Sunday, May 3-4, 2025. Details regarding team schedules for the tournaments will be available on the Department website.

THE AMERICAN LEGION OF IOWA - DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS REPORT DISTRICT SPRING CONFERENCES 2025

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION AWARDS

The National Veterans Employment & Education Commission annually presents several awards to honor employers who hire veterans, disabled veterans, and older workers. Those who help veterans find employment are also recognized.

The awards include:

- Employer of the Year - Small Business, Mid-Sized Business and Large Business
- Employer of the Disabled Award
- Employer of Older Workers Award
- Local Veterans Employment Representative of the Year
- Outstanding Disabled Veteran Outreach Program Specialist of the Year
- Outstanding Employment Service Office of the Year

All entries must be accompanied by an official nomination form with no more than two pages of narrative, along with supporting documents.

The deadline for submittals to the Department Veterans Benefits Committee is October 15. It is important that the Post nominations are submitted by this time to ensure that they are considered for the Department Awards to be delivered at the Department Convention. The Department selects one nominee in each category as its winner and submits the winners for the National awards.

Forms and criteria are available on our website at <https://www.ialegion.org/employmentawards>.

LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER AND FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR

The National Affairs Committee is responsible for selecting the Fire Fighter and the Law Enforcement Officers of the year. This year the applications for both were due by Nov 30th to the State Legion Office.

This year's Firefighter of the Year is Tim Kronlage from Camanche, IA. Tim was nominated by Post #137 in Dyersville, IA, 2nd District.

This year's Law Enforcement Officer is Judy Kellen from Sioux City, IA. Judy was nominated by Post #241 of Le Mars, IA, 9th District.

The department recipients have been submitted for consideration for the national awards.

ORATORICAL CONTEST

The Department of Iowa's High School Oratorical Contest was held Sunday, February 16, 2025, at Mid-Winter Conference. First place was awarded to Karli Roth of Earlham, Iowa. Karli is a Senior and homeschooled. The title of her prepared oration is "Unity From Division: The Forgotten History of Our Constitution." She will compete in the National Oratorical Contest on May 18th in Hillsdale, Michigan, for a chance to win a scholarship of \$25,000 and the title of national champion. Karli is sponsored by American Legion Post #737 in Waukee.

Runner-up honors go to James Peng, a Cedar Falls High School Junior and a Cedar Falls resident sponsored by Becker Chapman American Legion Post #138 in Waterloo. Third place finish went to Payton Wadesworth, a Senior from Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Payton attends John F, Kennedy High School and is sponsored by American Legion Post #11 in Jefferson, IA.

THE AMERICAN LEGION OF IOWA - DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS REPORT DISTRICT SPRING CONFERENCES 2025

FIFTH GRADE FLAG ESSAY CONTEST

The Fifth-Grade Flag Essay Contest winners were judged by the Department Children and Youth Committee. First place went to Anna Zumbach of Maquoketa Elementary in Delhi, Iowa. Anna was sponsored by Carpenter-Diesch-White American Legion Post #436 in Delhi and District 4. Runner up went to Quinley Leick of Treynor Elementary in Treynor, Iowa. Quinley was sponsored by Lamar Hartje American Legion Post #725 in Treynor and District 7. Third place went to Halle Seidl of Kuemper Elementary in Carroll, Iowa. Halle was sponsored by Maurice Dunn American Legion Post 7 in Carroll and District 8.

JUNIOR SHOOTING SPORTS PROGRAM

On March 8th the American Legion, Department of Iowa, conducted its annual Junior Shooting Sports Air Rifle Championship Tournament. Congratulations to the Des Moines Central MCJROTC, sponsored by Post #374 of Highland Park, who won the team trophy with a total of 2152.61 points. Swisher Sharpshooters, sponsored by Post #671 of Swisher, came in 2nd with 1989.48 points, and Ames Youth Air Rifle Club, sponsored by Post #37 of Ames, came in 3rd with 1857.31 points. The top three shooters are Elsie Manning, the individual overall winner with 548 points, Wesley Rumbaugh came in 2nd place with 544 points, and Spencer Haylea came in 3rd with 553 points.

AMERICAN LEGION OF IOWA FOUNDATION

Incorporated Nov. 29, 1978, as the charitable entity of the Iowa Department of The American Legion, the Foundation was organized as a mechanism for the Legion to provide financial assistance to promote Americanism, youth programs, veterans' rehabilitation, and community service in the state of Iowa.

Since 1979, over \$2.5 million has been contributed to support veterans' assistance, educational programs, patriotic endeavors, and children and youth programs.

The American Legion of Iowa Foundation has accumulated a total permanent endowment fund of over \$2 million. Earnings from this endowment are dedicated to support programs of veterans' assistance, education, and patriotic endeavors.

Information on applications for grants is available at <https://www.ialegion.org/iafoundation/> or by request from Department Headquarters. Applications can be submitted electronically (preferred) to foundation@ialegion.org or mailed to Department Headquarters. Grant applications are due by **April 15th** (postmarked no later than April 15th for mailed applications).

LEGIONCARE NO COST AD&D INSURANCE

Anyone who enrolls in LegionCare will be covered for life if they remain a member of The Legion Family. All adult "Legion Family" members – Legion, Auxiliary and SAL – are eligible for the coverage.

Every eligible "Legion Family" member may enroll, but the member must sign-up to be covered. LegionCare provides up to \$1,000 of 24-hour/day accidental death coverage to an enrolled member. And if an enrolled member suffers a covered loss while performing "official Legion Family business", there is an additional \$4,000 benefit --bringing the total to up to \$5,000.

Go online to www.TheLIT.com and fill in the requested information. By enrolling on-line, your coverage will begin immediately, and you will get an e-mail confirmation within minutes. Those without access to the internet may enroll by calling the LIT's toll-free number at (800) 235-6943.

THE AMERICAN LEGION OF IOWA - DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS REPORT DISTRICT SPRING CONFERENCES 2025

LEGIONNAIRES INSURANCE TRUST (LIT) – PRODUCTS & SERVICES

The Legionnaire Insurance Trust (LIT) was founded with the purpose to provide Legionnaires with the most advanced and least expensive form of insurance to protect themselves and their families while providing American Legion Departments with a reliable source of revenue.

This year, the Department of Iowa received **\$82,585** in allocations. Since Iowa joined the LIT in 1992, the Department of Iowa has received a grand total of **\$1,932,449**.

The LIT, as the **only endorsed provider** of the Department's voluntary purchase programs, has made it possible for thousands of Legion families to collect millions of dollars in benefits by enrolling in one or more of the products and/or services offered. For more information, visit www.theLIT.com.

Department Sponsored Programs

- **Hospital HELP Plan** — Provides benefits for hospital stays including intensive care, cardiac care, care for cancer, rehabilitative facilities, and V.A. hospitals.
- **Cancer Care** — Provides important protection and a daily benefit if you are hospitalized due to cancer.
- **Accidental Death** — Helps provide financial protection for you and your family. Up to \$5,000.00 LegionCare AD coverage at no cost to Legionnaires is available. You can also purchase additional Accident coverage up to \$100,000.00.
- **On-The-Move Travel Accident** — Provides up to \$200,000.00 coverage when fatally injured in a covered accident while traveling, plus \$500.00 per day if a covered accident lands you in the hospital.
- **ID Resolve** — Provides 24-hour identity theft resolution that helps protect your money, your time and your financial reputation.
- **Emergency Assistance Plus** — Provides you with 24/7 emergency medical and travel assistance services should something happen to you or your family while traveling away from home.
- **Medicare Supplement Insurance** — Supplements your Medicare Coverage at group rates.
- **Health & Dental Insurance** — Request a quote on various Health & Dental Insurance Plans designed with you in mind.
- **Long-Term Care** — Can help provide home health care, supervised adult care, and more.
- **Lifeline Medical Alert Service** — Provides fast access to help in the event of a fall or medical emergency so you can live confidently and independently.
- **DeviceGuard** — A simple, comprehensive, and affordable way to protect your devices—from smartphones to laptops to digital doorbells. Flexible plans and bundles ensure that you only pay for the protection you need.

DONATIONS

The Department has an online platform for donations. The platform allows donors to give one-time donations, monthly donations, and even has a text-to-give function. Visit www.ialegion.org/donate or simply text the word "LEGION" to 26989.

The online platform also allows for "round-up" donations. Donors may designate a debit card or credit card to be used and every purchase on the card can be rounded up to the next dollar as a donation. The accumulated donation is taken out once per month, and donors may set a maximum amount to give.



THE AMERICAN LEGION OF IOWA - DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS REPORT DISTRICT SPRING CONFERENCES 2025

AMERICAN LEGION OF IOWA ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

The American Legion, Department of Iowa, has an electronic newsletter. The newsletter is emailed twice per month, with special editions when necessary. Subscribe today to get the latest information from the Department delivered right to your email. A link to subscribe can be found on our home page at ialegion.org.

AMERICAN LEGION OF IOWA FACEBOOK

Our Department of Iowa Facebook page is <https://www.facebook.com/iowalegion>. Our Facebook page is all about exposure. To maximize our efforts in getting our word out to our entire Legion Family, our Veterans and communities, we need active page followers. If you haven't done so already, please Click the "Follow" button on our page. You are also encouraged to Like, Share, and Comment on our posts. All will increase the exposure of our message.

AMERICAN LEGION OF IOWA WEBSITE

Our department website will soon be changing. The current website is becoming outdate and hard to maintain. We are working with a website developer to make improvements, similar to the new Boys State website. The new website will launch this spring.

DEPARTMENT MEDIA AWARDS

The American Legion Department Media and Communications committee hosts an annual Media Contest in four categories. All categories must be a publication of The American Legion, ALA, SAL, or American Legion Riders or a joint publication of two or more of the organizations, at the Post, Unit, County, or District level. There is NO entry fee. Department level publications are not eligible.

There are four categories: single sheet newsletter, multiple sheet newsletter, electronic newsletter, and website/social media. All submissions are due April 30th, 2025, and publication must have occurred between May 1st, 2024, and April 30th, 2025.

For more information, visit <https://www.ialegion.org/ialpa/>

AMERICAN LEGION OF IOWA PISTOL RAFFLE

The Department of Iowa is raffling a USA 250th anniversary pistol. This pistol is specially designed, with The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, Sons of The American Legion, and American Legion Riders brand marks.

Description: NM922483 Springfield 1911 .45AP Garrison Engraving, Model PX9420EM, #29 of a certified maximum of 250 firearms

Raffle details: Only 500 tickets sold at ticket price of \$20.00 per ticket. Drawing to be held at Department Convention on July 20, 2025. Need not be present to win.

Posts and members are encouraged to request books of tickets to sell.

Contact Department Headquarters for tickets at 800-365-8387.

THE AMERICAN LEGION OF IOWA - DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS REPORT DISTRICT SPRING CONFERENCES 2025

DEPARTMENT CONTACT INFORMATION

The American Legion of Iowa	(800) 365-8387	www.ialegion.org
720 Lyon Street	(515) 282-5068	info@ialegion.org
Des Moines, IA 50309	(515) 282-7583 (fax)	