



THE AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF IOWA

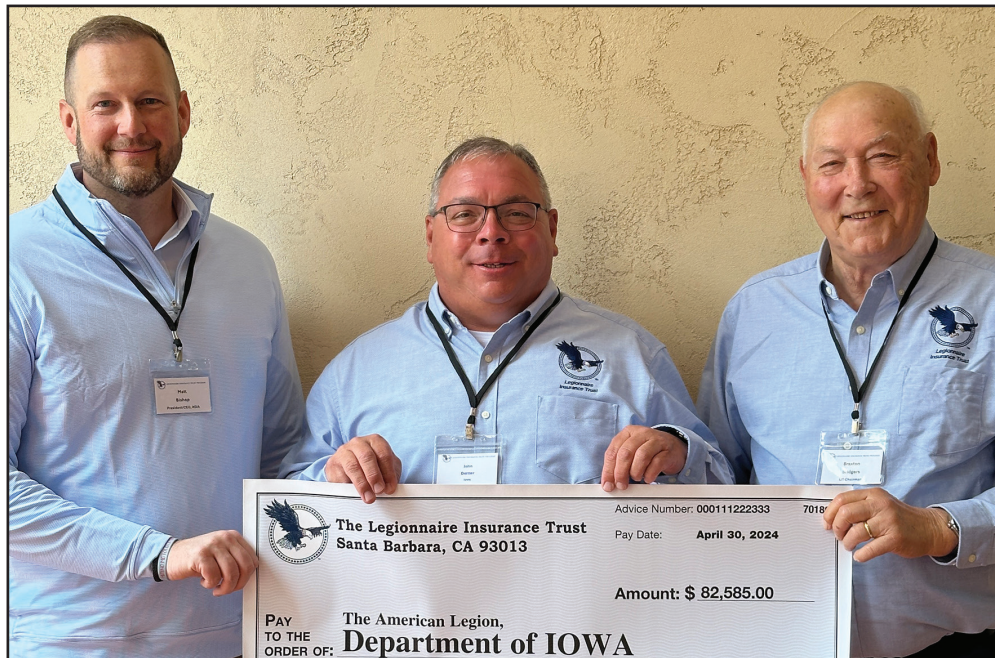
IOWA LEGIONNAIRE &

Auxiliary Communiqué

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

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

Department of Iowa Receives \$82,585 from LIT



**Matt Bishop,
CEO, AGIA;**
**John Derner,
Department
Adjutant,**
**Braxton Bridgers,
Chairman of the
Board, LIT**

DEADLINES & DATES

- June 14
Flag Day
- June 15
Consolidated Post Reports Due
Legionnaire of the Year Nominations Due
National Convention Registration Due
- June 16
Father's Day
- June 19
Juneteenth Observed
Department Offices Closed
- June 23-28
Boys State – Camp Dodge
- June 28
Finance Meeting – Dept HQ
- June 29
DEC – Dept HQ
- July 4
Independence Day
Department Offices Closed
- July 12-14
IndyCar Weekend
– Iowa Speedway
- July 19-22
Department Convention
Airport Holiday Inn, Des Moines
- July 22
Department Offices Closed
- July 20-22
JSSP Nat'l Tournament
– Colorado Springs
- July 21 – 27
Boys Nation
– Arlington, Virginia
- August 15
Fall Legionnaire Articles due
- August 23 - 29
National Convention
– Charlotte NC
- Sep 1
History Books
Due to Dept
- Sep 2
Labor Day
Department Offices Closed
- Sep 2
Post Officer
Forms Due to Dept.
- Sep 16
American Legion Day

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

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. Additionally, the LIT provides a no cost LegionCare Accidental Death coverage to all adult Legion, Auxiliary, and SAL members of the Department of Iowa who enroll.

Facts about the Legionnaire Insurance Trust:

- Serving Legionnaires since 1966
- 50 participating American Legion Departments
- Over 1,500,000 participating Legionnaires
- Over \$1 billion paid in claims to Legionnaires
- Over \$100,000,000 in allocations paid to the American Legion Departments

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.

LIT Products and Services

- Toll-free customer service & claims telephone numbers
- Expert customer service & claims processing
- Coverage available for Legionnaire, spouse, and dependent children
- Available to American Legion Auxiliary
- Available to Sons of The American Legion

Department Sponsored Programs

- Hospital HELP Plan — Provides benefits for hospital stays including intensive care, cardiac care, care for cancer, rehabilitative facilities, and VA 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 – Accidental Death coverage at no cost to Legionnaires is available: (activation required). 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.

For more information on LIT products,
visit www.theLIT.com or call 800-235-6943



The American Legion, Department of Iowa

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American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Iowa

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Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Iowa

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Department Commander Stanley Elliott

Greetings from the Department of Iowa.

As most of us know, on April 29 Iowa was hit with a series of strong storms.

These storms destroyed numerous homes and businesses across the state. Continue to keep our communities, friends, neighbors, and our fellow American Legion Family members in your

thoughts and prayers as they work on rebuilding their lives. National has a publication titled.

“Disaster Preparedness and Response for American Legion Posts”. Download a copy of this and see what your Post can provide in situations like this. I remember when the EF5 Parkersburg tornado hit in 2008. The American Legion Post became the place to go for meals and other necessities. They took care of the community; let’s all follow their example if possible.

It was a busy couple of months since Mid-Winter. I was able to attend seven of our nine district conferences and was surprised at the large attendance numbers at each of these conferences. It was great to see so many members participating in their conferences.

With District Conferences finishing up, I congratulate all newly elected officers. With post and county councils also holding their elections please support all the new officers. All of these newly elected commanders have commission and committee slots to fill and that can be a challenge. Reach out to them and offer to make an appointment.

On my travels to District Conferences, the number one concern or complaint I heard is how difficult it is to get into the schools for Boys and Girls State candidates, Oratorical participants, and Fifth Grade Flag contestants. My post suffers from the same challenges as a lot of yours do. I wish I had the answers on how to accomplish this, but I don’t. To Post Chairpersons that do have access to your schools I invite you to send in an article for our

Department Electronic newsletter detailing how you made that connection. We are always looking for new content to help fill the twice a month issues.

By the time you get this issue the Department Leadership School will be completed. If you took the opportunity to attend, I thank you. If this year’s school didn’t fit your schedule, I understand but please start making plans to attend next year. The topics and lessons learned pertain to all levels of leadership in our department.

The Department Convention is July 19-21 with a couple of meetings on the 18th. Start making your plans to attend even if just for a day. This is a great opportunity for our members to see and hear what is going on in our department. Sunday, we finish the weekend with elections and installation of new officers. Take the opportunity to contact and congratulate the new members of our Department Leadership team and give them your full support.

Continue working on membership and Post CPRs. One hundred percent was my goal for both let’s all work together to achieve this.

**Remember we can accomplish anything by our
“Devotion to Mutual Helpfulness”
Stanley Elliott**

Department of Iowa Commander



Department Adjutant John A. Derner

Communication and Training

Education of our members on the policies and programs of The American Legion is critical to our success. Empowering our members with knowledge of our programs can create energy and excitement. That education occurs through communication and training.

The education of our members begins with communication. On the department level, we use several avenues to communicate, not only with our members, but also with the public.

The first of those communication channels is our department website, www.ialegion.org.

The website is our most valuable source of information. It is accessible through computers, tablets, and smartphones. It contains hundreds of elements – web pages, documents, forms, booklets, and pamphlets. It is accessible around the clock and is continually updated.

Another valuable source of information is our electronic newsletter. The electronic newsletter is published twice a month and is supplemented with special editions. It is a reliable source for the latest information from the department delivered right to your email. A link to subscribe to the newsletter can be found on the home page of our website.

We also communicate through Facebook. Our Department of Iowa Facebook page is <https://www.facebook.com/iowalegion>. Our Facebook page is 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 have not 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.

The last form of communication is this publication, The Iowa Legionnaire. It is published quarterly and is the form of communication which reaches the largest number of our members.

In addition to communication avenues, our members are educated through training. On the department level, we have two primary in-person training events each year – Department Leadership School, and the Department Mid-Winter Conference.

The Department Leadership School takes place in late May/early June and the training targets those seeking to hold district, department, and national leadership positions.

The Mid-Winter Conference takes place in February and the training targets post leadership and all members.

Other opportunities for training occur at the district conferences in the spring and fall. Many of the districts provide sessions specifically for training, and all conferences provide for the education of our members.

Our national organization provides both in-person and online training events throughout the year. One of those growing in popularity is Training Tuesdays. For more information on national training resources, visit <https://www.legion.org/training>.

A significant amount of the time we spent in the military involved training. In basic training, we learned how to march, shoot, wear our uniforms properly, and work as a team. Advanced training honed our specialty skills. Most of us continued to train in various forms throughout our military careers. Training made us better service members.



Department Service Officer
Shane Pankonen

VA Copayment Responsibility and Debt Options

The Department of Veteran's Affairs (VA) offers a vast array of services, and multiple options available to help pay your copayments required by your insurance.

You as a Veteran are responsible for your copayments for certain services. If you do not pay these in good faith, and in a timely manner, this debt can be sent to the Department of Treasury for collection. If at any time you are unable to financially make the copayments, the Department of Veteran's Affairs (VA) can help with financial arrangements such as

repayment plans or a waiver within 30 days of the initial billing by completing VA Form 5655 on VA.gov/VA forms.

Or by calling 1-800-827-0648.

If you receive VA benefit payments, these benefit payments could be used to collect any unpaid delinquent copayment debt. The debt is turned over to the Treasury Debt Management Service after 120 days for collections. At that point in time, Treasury will issue an official notification letter to you to make payment arrangements and if arrangements are not made, Treasury will begin collections.

If arrangements are not made, the following actions could take place. Any eligible Federal payments including income tax refunds, Social Security benefits, retirement payments, or any Federal or State payments can be withheld. Also, Treasury can also

collect the debt from civilian salaries through wage garnishment, or they can collect the debt through private collection agencies. Once a debt is turned over to the Department of Treasury, the Department of Veteran's Affairs (VA) can no longer accept payments for that debt, it must go through the collection agency that your debt was turned over to.

If you have questions or concerns regarding copayment debt you are encouraged to contact the Facility Revenue Office at your local VA medical center or call the Health Resource Center's number listed at the top of your billing statement. You have the right to dispute any debt you deem incorrect.

If you have any questions about this benefit, you may contact a American Legion Service Office and we will be glad to assist you. Also, I may be contacted directly at 515-323-7532 for questions regarding this benefit or any VA benefits.



Department Chaplain
Whitney Smith McIntosh

"We do not become healers. We are. We came as healers. Some of us are still catching up to what we are.

We do not become storytellers.

We are.

We came as carriers of the stories we and our ancestors lived.

Some of us are still catching up to what we are.

We do not become artists.

We are.

We came as artists.

Some of us are still catching up to what we are.

We do not become warriors, helpers, or peacemakers.

We are.

We came as such.

Some of us are still catching up to what we are.

We do not learn to love in this sense.

We are Love.

We came as Love.

Some of us are still catching up to who we truly are."

- Clarissa Pinkola Estés

In this time of changing roles and leadership in the Department of Iowa, I encourage all of you to research opportunities and roles within the organization. Take this time to step out and stretch a little outside of your comfort zone. Run for that role you always thought about, volunteer for the committee, ask the question. You may be amazed with the result of asking a single question. Five months into my time in the Legion I asked a question and ended up joining district level leadership.

I then attended Department of Iowa Leadership College that summer and my world moved on from there. I love the American Legion and have been blessed with two years as your Department Chaplain, along with a variety of other roles. As I move on to the role as one of the three Sixth District Vice Commanders, I leave you with this prayer.

Father, I am coming to the close of another year in the legion. I thank you for the mighty work of your hands and the progress in every one of our programs: Children and Youth, National Affairs and Security, Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, Americanism and leading our individual communities have all added to the life of the legion. Father, we thank you for blessing our efforts and for helping us to always spread the works of the American Legion. In your name we gratefully say. Amen



Sons of The American Legion Detachment Commander
Jim Lastovka

The Final Salute. This is a project for the purpose of veterans with no final resting place. One of the veterans is a Civil War Veteran. He has been sitting on a shelf in the back room of a funeral home for 93 years. At the Mid-Winter Conference, the Detachment had

for sale raffle tickets and had a drawing for a wooden plaque. Money will go for the purpose of wood to construct the urns, by high school student in shop class. Let's give these veterans their Final Resting Place with Dignity and Honor they Deserve.

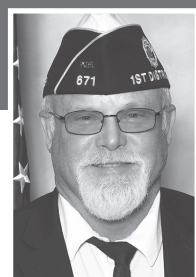
This year so far, we have 10 new squadrons. As of April 25, 2024 we have still had 36 squadron that haven't sent in their Officers Report, that one the things we all need to work on. Also, as a reminder to receive your 2025 cards all squadrons are required to submit Squadron Officers Report, Membership Eligibility

Verification, Squadron Data Report and Consolidated Squadron Report.

This year by National membership goals we have met every goal so far. That means May 15 we are at hundred percent by National. Next goal July 1, 2024 105%, that would give the Iowa SAL its 7 Triple Nickel.

To the new squadrons Welcome and to the new one started in pass keep supporting the legion posts and the veteran the things they fought for.

As I am ending my second year I would like to thank all for your support.



1st District Commander
Gerald Bennett

Greetings to the 1st District. This my last article after leading the 1st District for the last two years. I am not ready to ride off into the

sunset yet as I will be a candidate for Department Vice Commander for 2024 - 25.

Thank you to Columbus Junction for hosting the 1st District Spring Conference on April 13. Curtis Goudy from Douds post # 494 is the District commander elect for 2024 - 25. I hope you will support him as well as you have for me over the last two years.

Congratulations to Durant, West Branch, Victor, Oxford,

Swisher, Morning Sun, Farmington, Milton, Douds and Washington for meeting their membership goals. Another ten posts only need 1 or 2 renewals to make target. Keep making those phone calls and 729 transfers so we can close the membership year strongly.

For God and Country



2nd District Commander
Richard Bries

Hello again 2nd District Family We finished the Spring Conference on 19-20 April with a great turnout for the social Friday night and outstanding attendance for the

conference. A special "Thank You" to everyone that attended. I also want to thank Blue Grass, IA Post 711 for hosting. Commander Polly and her team did a fantastic job! The Blue Grass Auxiliary also outdid themselves providing an excellent luncheon and program. CDR Polly welcomed everyone to Blue Grass Post. There are many others to thank i.e. Department Vice Commander Steve Colcord for attending, Diane

Skinner & Virginia Carter for conducting the POW/MIA Remembrance Ceremony, and Andrew Callahan (Post 727) for offering to hold the Fall Conference on 5 October 2024. Great Job, everyone.

During the meeting Dale Ratterman gave the Financial Report and reminded us that he will be retiring August 1st after serving as the District Finance Officer for several years, who did a superb job. Robert Demastus (Post 298) has been appointed to replace Dale as the 2024-2025 2nd District Finance Officer. We also held the election of Officers, and I will be staying as your District Commander for 1 more year.

Ken Weimerskirch (Post 75) Vice Commander for Dubuque & Jackson Counties has resigned due to family concerns. Thanks Ken, for the fine job you did for our District. Robert Felderman (Dubuque Post 6)

has agreed to replace Ken. Thanks to everyone that stayed in office and to the ones that stepped up to a new leadership role.

Congratulations to Post 473 Oxford Junction for receiving the Post Honor Ribbon and the Road Runner Award.

The 2024 membership is ending soon, so don't forget to renew the ones who haven't yet.

CPRs are due to the Department no later than 15 June. If you need help give me or your Vice Commander a call. I would like to have a 100% turn in from 2nd District. Please don't wait, do them now, and get them sent.

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY BE THE ONE



3rd District Commander Dixie Kapayou

Greetings 3rd District Legionnaires and member of the American Legion Family.

We had a great turn out at our District Spring Conference with a high attendance. A big thank you to Commander Craig Young Bear, Meskwaki Nation Post 701, for hosting the hospitality and social activities, it was an enormous success. Everyone had a fun time forging friendship, and camaraderie. It was also our immense pleasure to host National Commanders visit at Meskwaki and the Iowa Veterans Home in February.

A few of our guest speakers at our Spring Conference were Department Service Office Steven Sutton who

reported the importance on filing your claims. Brian Ring reported on Veterans Helping Veterans and Youth, as well as Boys State, urging posts to promote to local schools, counselors are needed for Boys State. Legion Riders Cliff Barker stated there were three new chapters, and the Veterans Emergency Fund is now self-sustaining, and the Riders have donated a substantial amount to Veterans organizations. VA representative for Marshalltown, Kevin Huseboe, reported on a Veterans Memorial project and the fundraising. Various awards were presented to post in the district.

We have had some post closures this past year but had kept our members. We transferred these members to the closest post. Remember if members of your post have not paid their dues, they will not be removed from membership rolls and will have time to pay their

past dues in this coming year. Those still interested in the three-year membership, it is only available on the National American Legion website.

As the year wraps up, I would like to thank you for all your support and encouragement, this is my last article for the Legionnaire. A special thanks to my officers: Richard, Del, Bob, Kevin, Candi, Jack, Bruce, Ron, Jim and Kennan, and my predecessor and Department Vice Jeff Large. It was a momentous year with memorable experiences. Let us give a congratulations to our newly elected District Commander Del Shepard from Janesville Post 522. He will be installed on Sunday, July 21 at our Department Convention. I am looking forward to seeing you all there.

For God and Country,
Dixie Kapayou



4th District Commander Cindy Yslas

This time of year brings many conversations discussing the differences between Patriots Day, Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and Independence Day and what they each stand for. Throw in Flag Day

and it truly becomes confusing to many. Taking a look at the differences in these holidays, we enter into a summer full of patriotic opportunities to show our pride in the Red, White & Blue and those who fought (and continue to fight) for her.

Often forgotten is Armed Forces Day, celebrated on the third Saturday in May, honoring those military members currently serving in the armed forces. A day created on August 31, 1949 to replace separate Army, Navy and Air Force days, stemmed from the unification under the Department of Defense, originally designed to educate the civilian community about the branches of the service and what they do day in and day out to serve under the Department of Defense.

Next is Memorial Day, originally known as Decoration Day, designed to honor and mourn the US Military personnel who have died while serving in the

United States armed forces. Originally (1868 – 1970) observed on May 30th, but since 1971, is observed on the last Monday of May. As you celebrate with family, enjoy that camping weekend or family BBQ, remember the men and women who died for us, giving us the freedom to enjoy those events.

Next we have a bit of an unknown holiday, known as Flag Day. While not a Federal Holiday, Flag Day, celebrated on June 14 to commemorate the adoption of the flag of the United States on June 14, 1777 by resolution of the Second Continental Congress. It just so happens, that June 14th also so celebrates the US Army birthday, as Congress adopted the American continental Army on June 14, 1775. In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson issues a proclamation that officially established June 14th as Flag Day and on August 3, 1949, National Flag Day was established by an Act of Congress. Flag Day is often celebrated throughout communities to show support for our flag and the history of alterations it has gone through since its conception. Also used as a day of retirement of old, used and damaged flags; showing them proper respect through burning ceremonies and honoring everything that those stars and stripes represent.

Moving on to July, we observe Independence Day on July 4th. We've all learned about the revolutionary war of 1775 and the following year of the colonies

strong hold toward their independence from the Monarchy. In 1776, after great collaboration of what would become the Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1776 became the day that was celebrated as the birth of American Independence. Celebrated today with fireworks, cookouts parades and parties, it gives us a chance to remember the men and women who fought so hard for the independence we often take for granted today.

Heading into fall, we look at Veterans Day (originally known as Armistice Day). Observed annually on November 11, Veterans Day is for honoring ALL military veterans of the United States Armed Forces. Dating back to World War I, hostilities formally ended at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918 when the Armistice with Germany went into effect and the date of November 11th was solidified. At the urging of major US veterans' organizations, Armistice Day was renamed Veterans Day in 1954.

So, as you celebrate the various military holidays we hold dear this year, take a moment to understand what each one stands for and why those various days were set aside to give special recognition to the men and women who have served, continue to serve and those who paid the ultimate price for the freedoms we celebrate today.



5th District Commander Gary J. Quinlan

Hello 5th District,

1st off I want to thank my home post 296 out of Deep River for hosting Spring Conference April 20th and all the those who attend and to the department for the speakers that spoke and to the district that had faith in me for being district commander again next year.

May 6th and 7th I was invited to attend Spring Meetings in Indianapolis and got to meet leading National Commander 2024-2025 James A LaCoursiere

out of Connecticut and the leading National Commander 2025-2026 Dan K. Wiley out of Kansas.

I have several dates on my calendar that I will be attending. District Commander Orientation May 31st at Department Headquarters and Leadership School May 31st through June 2nd at Holiday Inn Downtown. The Department Convention is July 19th through July 21st at Holiday Inn Des Moines Airport and Conference Center. Hope to see a lot of you there.

I would like to thank my wife 5th District Auxiliary President Tammi Quinlan for the support through the year and the future support and good luck to her on getting nominated on being the 5th District Auxiliary President for the upcoming year.

Currently the 5th District has 14 posts at 100% or better congratulations to them.

There is more work to be done and I couldn't do it all without the help of the District

Adjunct and the Vice-Commanders and the past District Commanders that I could asked questions and get advice.

In closing I'm looking forward to the year 2024-2025 and what more is in-store also mark your calendars. The Fall Conference will be October 19th at post 111 Newton.

Always remember "Be the One." For God and Country

Department Adjutant's article continued from page 1

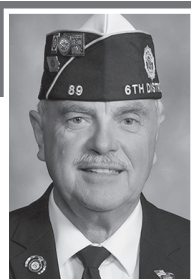
Training will also make us better Legionnaires. Establishing and implementing a training program at your post will increase the knowledge of your post members. The training does not have to be complicated. It can be as simple as spending five to ten minutes at each post meeting giving an overview of an American Legion program. Other simple efforts

could include articles in your post newsletter or a video from the national website shown at a post meeting.

There are many resources available for training members of your post. The resources include videos, manuals, booklets, and pamphlets. Most of the items

are free and are available for download from the national and department websites.

Everyone loves to learn something new. By offering training opportunities, you add interest to your post meetings, mentor new members, and train future leaders of our organization.



6th District Commander Don De Kock

As I am traveling down the interstate in central Illinois, I think about what needs to go into this fourth article that I need to write as a District Commander. I look out of the windows of the vehicle I am driving, and I see the fields starting to come alive with the corn that has been planted and is now spouting, the trees have all leafed out, the grass is green and growing quite quickly. It is springtime and new life is in abundance.

I then ask myself what has all happened in the 6th District since I wrote the previous article. I think about the hours I have spent traveling to different Post Meetings throughout the District. I think about the notes that I have taken at different Post Meetings. During my visits to the Posts I always tried to provide some information that will be useful and informative. Sometimes it was information concerning what was happening during the legislative session and how that was affecting our legislative priorities. I also always tried to ask two questions to the members who were present. The first question was normally "What is something that this Post does well?" Sometimes a follow up question needed to be needed to be

asked. Then I would start to get responses and most generally the Post was in fact busy doing good things, maybe they were doing several Military Honors at different funerals for veterans, maybe it was being involved with youth programs. It was exciting to hear what different Posts were involved doing.

I then asked the second question what is something that you are currently not doing that you would like to see the Post become involved with. Most of the time you could hear the crickets in the room, because of no response.

I then would start to talk about some of the different Posts that I had visited and what other Posts were doing. Such as a Post that is in a town with a population of less than two hundred residents and they are bringing in three hundred eighty to four hundred people for their pancake breakfast fundraisers. This Post is doing great things. Or the Post were the American Legion Family total members, is a larger number of members that the town has as residents. Or the Post that will hand you a sheet of paper that is full of different areas that are involved with. 6th District Posts you are doing great things for your communities. Thank you.

Then I begin to think about that special holiday we will celebrate towards the end of this month we call Memorial Day. A way of remembrance of those comrades who didn't come home, they don't get to

celebrate springtime, they don't get to celebrate any holiday with their family. They paid the ultimate price. Some came home in a Flag covered casket, and some have never come home. As we celebrate these comrades some individuals will have a solemn look on their face and others will shed tears for those who were lost. Some may even be asking why it wasn't them instead of their comrade.

We need to show care and concern to those family members who lost a family member. Allow them to have the space they may need but at the same time keep them close.

Let us Honor and Respect on this Memorial Day those who paid the ultimate price for this great nation.

May the wind be always at your back, the salt spray in your face, and you never forget whose hand is on the tiller that directs your life.



7th District Commander Terry Joynes

I had major heart surgery 3 weeks ago so haven't been able to get out and see everyone and because of the surgery I don't have a lot to report. Hopefully over the next couple of

months I will feel more like getting out more.

We have had a very good year. Keep up the good work and keep up the Buddy Check.



8th District Commander Ken Fields

Greetings 8th District Legionnaires, Opportunities don't happen, you create them! Please congratulate incoming District Commander Tony Lile to the 8th District. Tony is a member of Post 132 located in Manilla, IA, and is currently serving as the Commander of Post 132 and as the 8th District 1st Vice Commander. Please give Incoming Commander Lile your full support enabling him to do his best for the 8th.

I would like to thank the members of American Legion

Post 491, American Legion Auxiliary Unit 491, and the newly formed Sons of the American Legion Squadron 491 for their invitation to Department Commander Stan Elliot and I to celebrate Harold "Andy" Anderson 75th anniversary of American Legion membership. The community of Duncombe, IA pulled out all the stops to recognize Mr. Anderson's contributions to community, and to the American Legion. He has served Post 491 continuously for 75 years and is active as the Posts Finance Officer to this day. Thank you, Harold, for your steadfast service!

If you have not turned in your Consolidated Post Report to Department HQ please do so immediately, the CPR is due June 15th, 2024. The Consolidated Post Report

is vital to the American Legion membership and has key information that the National Leadership can use when speaking to Congress for benefits concerning veterans. Our CPRs detail how much we give back to the Community, State, and Nation through our volunteer efforts. You can file your CPR online at www.ialegion.org. Commanders and Adjutants, please take a few minutes and fill out your Post's CPR and submit it prior to June 15th.

Lastly, Department of Iowa Convention will be held at the Des Moines Airport Holiday Inn July 19 – 21, 2024, and the National Convention will be held in New Orleans, LA August 23 – 29, 2024, I hope to see you there.



9th District Commander Jim Rolfes

9th District Spring Conference is done, and my year is almost over. A lot of accomplishments and some didn't. President Sandi and I won the Unity Award last fall. Lucky? Well only 3 towns in the state have all 3, post unit & squadron target. 2 of those are in the 9th District, Le Mars and Ashton. So, it shows our efforts.

continued for the entire year. But we couldn't have done it without your cooperation.

Thank you to all that made that possible.

George Farrell was elected the new 9th District Commander. Give him all the cooperation you gave to me and my officers. A big thank you to them as well.

Department Convention will be here soon, July 19-21 at the Des Moines Airport Holiday Inn. Plan to attend. You'll earn 200 points toward the 1000-point post plaque. You'll earn another 100 points if you turn in your Consolidated Post report. Every post needs to

turn that in so that Congress can tell what we did. Every post does something, so check the boxes, sign it, and send it in.

You will soon receive your 2025 membership cards. With the cards will be a post officers reporting form. Fill this out with the names of your post commander, adjutant, etc. Even if you have the same officers, this must be filled out so that Department has the updated list. Please include and e-mail address. This is how we communicate now.

Team Iowa

On 1 May we gathered all 128 Post that hit the 100% mark, These Post were put into a drawing and 6 Post will receive \$500.00 for their hard work.

Post	Name	Location	District	Totals	Goals	% of Goal
IA-0518	Arthur F Brandt	Postville	4	42	42	100
IA-0014	Roland Fisher	Swea City	8	31	30	103.3333333
IA-0331	Springville	Springville	2	83	82	101.2195122
IA-0325	Merton V Hair	Early	9	51	50	102
IA-0578	Moore-Rutledge	Gravity	7	25	25	100
IA-0356	Bockhaus-Bartels	Tripoli	3	8	8	100

Congratulations to all Post that made 100% or above, your work has not gone unnoticed.

We as a Department only need 1800 paid members to reach 100%, we are that close to this goal.

Reminder that we all are a part of the IOWA MEMBERSHIP TEAM, it takes all of us to renew and bring in new members to keep this Department ever moving forward.

Brian D. Ring Sr. Chair
Tim McLaughlin

Hello Legion Family

Boys State will be held at Camp Dodge on 23-28 June 2024 and this time/ date are coming up fast.

We at Boys State will be hearing from the Army Band, there will be static displays- Helicopters and Military Vehicles for our attendees to look at and ask questions about. Also will have a Repelling wall for our attendees to use.

NEC Dennis Soppe went through the Gas Chamber last year, can we get him on the Repelling wall this year?

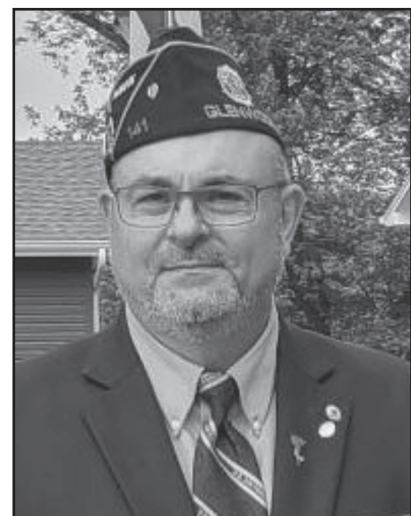
Boys State has an electronic store on line for Boys Stators (also Boys State alumni) to purchase Boys State items.

To access go to:
IALegion.org, programs, Boys State- after page opens, scroll down and click on- ONLINE STORE

26 June will be Legionaries Day, come visit and see how the program is running, talk with a few of the Attendees and have lunch with us. Boys State always needs councilors, Legionnaires if you have the week free, come spend it with us, you will not regret the time spent at Boys State.

Reminder to all, *Boys State is a Legion Program that is highly regarded.* Our schools are not teaching Government any more. It is important to US -the American Legion to keep this program Vital, an experience the students will enjoy and remember.

Brian D. Ring Sr.
President Boys State Board



Hello American Legion Family of Iowa

My name is Brian D. Ring Sr., and the 7th District has endorsed me for the high office of Department Commander for 2024-2025.

I have served our country in and out of Uniform for 41 years. First as active-duty Air Force for 12.5yrs, 28.5yrs civilian and retiring 28 April 2023 as the Supervisor for the 55th Civil Engineers Squadron, HVAC shop at Offutt AFB, Ne.

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

As a family we have 3 Legionnaires, 5 Auxiliary, 8 SAL and 3 Junior members, we all work. towards helping and advancing support for our Veterans.

Judy and I have learned a lot about the American Legion Family by attending meetings, conferences/ District conferences and by holding serval offices. We enjoy traveling and meeting with all of you throughout the year.

My motto is "Veterans Helping Veterans & Youth", this why the American Legion was formed to help Veteran's in and out of uniform.

Goals: To help advance the support for our Veterans and Youth programs.

To help keep the Iowa American Legion Family a Vital and growing organization in the coming years.

Membership growth is a job we all need to be working on. If you are a member of the American Legion Family, you are part of the membership team. We can't grow as a TEAM without your help.

This is why I am asking for your support and vote for Department Commander at the July 2024 Summer Convention. Hope to see you there.

For God and Country
Brian D. Ring. Sr.
Veterans Helping Veterans & Youth

Hello Readers!

Another few months has passed, and we're already looking at the new membership year. Isn't it exciting?

2025 membership can be processed starting on July 1st. With the new year, do you remember the eligibility requirements for your new members?

A super basic description for Legion eligibility is, if you have served federal active duty in the United States Armed Forces since December 7, 1941, and have been honorably discharged or are still serving – you are eligible for membership in The American Legion! Of course, there are more details, and it's not always clear. Both the Officer's Guide and Manual of Ceremonies and the Adjutant's Manual have more information. (Trust me. Both manuals have some good stuff!) If you still have questions, give us a call.

For SAL eligibility, the SAL Handbook says, "All male descendants, adopted sons, and stepsons of members of The American Legion, and such male descendants of veterans who died in service during the period of April 6, 1917, through November 11, 1918, or any time from December 7, 1941, to date, who served honorably, as set forth in Article IV, Section 1, of the National Constitution of The American Legion, or who died subsequent to their honorable discharge from such service, shall be eligible for membership in the Sons of The American Legion." Again, if there are questions, give us a call.

Now you can get out there and find those new members! It's going to be a great year. And have you ever wondered what corn says when it gets a compliment? Aw, shucks!

Ann Haack
Membership Clerk



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

DEPARTMENT OF IOWA

Auxiliary Communique



SUMMER 2024

SERVING VETERANS, THEIR FAMILIES AND THEIR COMMUNITIES

PAGE 7



Auxiliary President
Mary Sypherd

Happy Spring/Summer American Legion Family, wow we made it thru the spring district conferences. Had a great time supporting the Legion during National Commander Seehafer's visit to Iowa. Been to D.C to support the Legion even though congress was not in session. We still were able to visit with the Representatives aides (who, in my opinion, are just as well versed as their representatives). Because they were not in session, we were not able to hear the Commander give his speech (Which he was able to give at a later date). But for someone who has not had the opportunity before. I was impressed and Commander Seehafer did an amazing job getting the members fired up before the trip to the capital. A few of us went sightseeing. We toured the capital, seen the WW1 Memorial, took our picture outside the White House gates, visited the Candy store, ate some delicious food, and walked, and walked, and walked. Some of us joined the National Sons Commander "DJ" Hall with a tour of the Arlington cemetery, changing of the guards, placing of wreaths, seeing the WW1 memorial and Vietnam memorial. I don't know if they have done this before but hopefully it is something they will continue to do.

I have helped celebrate unit/posts with their birthday celebrations. Toured the VA facilities and the Veterans Home, they all were unique in their own way. And had that one special thing to help in the betterment of Veterans lives. The staff was very accommodating and receptive to our questions and concerns.

I am looking forward to the National President, Lisa Williamson's visit to Iowa, proud to show off Iowa nice, attending the Vietnam Veterans Memorial celebration, spending the last day of the Castaways weeklong activities, to participate in their celebration, & visiting Miracles in Motion all in the next couple weeks.

I want to thank all the members who have contributed or will contribute to my projects. They are special and dear to me, if we can give one veteran a reason to get out and have a purpose then we have succeeded. Which I believe follows along with Be the One.

The American Legion family summer convention is just a few short months away, I hope everyone is making plans to attend. Then it will be time for the National Convention in New Orleans at the end of August.

Friends and family, I look forward to seeing you where our paths may cross."

Hats off to Our Veterans"
President Mary



Auxiliary Vice President
Verlinda Prior

As incoming Department President, I can not thank Mary Sypherd enough for letting me tag along to all the events and meetings this past year. It gave me great insight into my year for the 2024-2025 Year. I can only hope that I absorbed what she gave me, and I will pass along with my knowledge, leadership, and mentorship abilities to the next Vice President. Mentorship is what this organization thrives on. I wish the best for Mary in her future leadership roles, and I can't wait to see what this great organization can do for 2024-2025. As we go forward into the next year let us all start with kindness and positivity. Smiles make the world go around and cost nothing.

Thank you

Greetings from your Department Historian!



Greeting American Legion Family members! This year is flying by fast and there are still lots of activities to participate and record for your unit and departments even though one year ended and another is beginning.

I was able to attend three spring conferences and was impressed with each conference being unique but similar, as we all have the same goals to support our veterans and family. One of my favorite parts of each meeting, is meeting new members and catching up with friends. Watching your officers lead the meeting and electing new members is a special time for our districts.

I would like to thank the units who sent me their Unit History reports and this gives me insight to what is happening around the state. Give yourself a pat on the back.

There is still time to send in your unit scrapbook for judging. I am accepting Junior and Senior Unit's and District historian books. You may send them to: Patti Rolf, 1167 310th St., Northboro, IA 51647 by June 15th. I look forward to seeing what everyone is doing!

National President Lisa Williamson will be spending time in Iowa, this month and I look forward to all the activities Department President Mary has planned. Let's make some memories.

Thanks for all you do and keep up the good work. See you in July!

Patti Rolf,
Department Historian

Girls State

The Iowa American Legion Auxiliary Girls State 2024 session is fast approaching. Excitement is running rapid for staff and the citizens alike. At the time of this writing 205 young ladies have registered along with volunteer staff applying. Many of the staff have sent in their background checks and are waiting patiently for the Protect Youth Sports, a Course on Child Safety that each will take an exam on.

The week of Girls State will prove to be a week of challenges, living in a dorm setting, experiencing possibly failure for the first time in their lives and finding out they can survive in the political arena. Citizens of the 2024 session will arrive at Drake on June 16th, between 10 AM till 12:00 PM with their ideas and hopes of how these five days will aspire. The citizens come into an experience of hands-on political process replicated by our own State of Iowa government.

Some will arrive with apprehension and doubts while others already have the dream of becoming the 2024 Governor, that returns next year in hopes of changing the world. The government experience commences on Friday June 21st with the Official Closing ceremony at 5:30 PM. The newly elected State officials will be installed.

Of the Girl State attendees, two will be selected to attend Girls Nation. These ladies will write a federal issue bill and submit it for consideration, and keeping their fingers crossed for its passage onto the Girls Nation Senate Floor for consideration of being passed and signed by the 2024 Girls Nation President. We are in hopes of sending top notch "senators" to Nation again this year.

I cannot thank you enough for the generous contributions, wonderful donations and supporting the American Legion Auxiliary Girls State Board in the annual Silent Auction, new this year- Basket Bid and Bake Sale held during Mid-Winter Conference. It didn't matter the contribution, no matter the size or kind everything was greatly appreciated. We truly thank you for supporting this premier program of the American Legion Auxiliary, no matter what the unit, post, squadron or individuals have done. With this kind of support, Iowa Girls State will continue to grow and flourish.

Bev C, 2023-2024 Director





1st District President Joyce Williams

I can hardly believe this year as 1st District president is coming to an end. I have had many new experiences and made many new friends. Here are some highlights of my year.

The 2023 Department Convention. It was the first time that I had attended a Legion Convention. I found that there is so much that can be learned from our leaders. The weekend was topped off by all the Department and District installations. I was pleased to have my

husband Sheldon, son Sam and daughter-in-law Rita there to see me get my ribbon.

Midwinter Conference was another first. Again, there is so much to be learned and shared. The more casual presentations and skits made it fun. Of course, the hospitality rooms and the silent auction added fun and togetherness.

I have visited our county units along with being invited to a few special unit meetings.

Thank you's go to the Durant Post and Unit for hosting the Fall conference. Great Job Durant. And to the Columbus Junction Post and Unit for hosting the Spring Conference. Again, Great job.

At all of these District events, I was able to tell about my project.

My project was to raise at least \$1,800 for a commercial grade recumbent exercise bike for the Iowa City VA's Acute Inpatient Mental Health Unit. With the help of so many, I have surpassed that goal. So, the bike will be purchased along with the I-Fit program used to set up individual programming. Thank you all so much. My hope is that this will help veterans that have responded to a Be The One Call.

For God and country and supporting our Veterans, Joyce Williams, 1st District President 2023-2024



2nd District President Teresa Kramer

Hello ladies of the 2nd District. I want to start off by saying, "thank you," to all of you that attended our Spring Conference in Blue Grass. It was so nice to see such a great turnout of members. A huge

thanks to the Blue Grass Post and Unit for hosting such a wonderful conference. You all did a fantastic job! Congratulations to our new slate of officers that were elected. I know they will all do a great job and that they will be able to count on all of us to give them 100% help and support as they lead our district next year. A friendly reminder that there are several forms that are due. It is important that they get turned into Department in a timely manner so that they can do

their jobs efficiently. I hope to see many of you at Department Convention July 19-21st. You can go on the Department website to register ahead of time. At this time, I want to personally thank everyone that has helped make this year so memorable for me. I could not have done everything without help from so many. May each and everyone of you have a wonderful summer! Hat's off to you!



3rd District President Deb Miller

WOW, this has been a whirlwind year! With this being my last article and I reflect over the year, there have been successes and failures, but there are two things that really stand out. First and most importantly are all the great people that I've met along the way. Second would be all the many, many things I've learned!!

Our spring conference at the end of March was held in Tama at the Meskwaki Casino. Excellent job by the

hosting Legion Family and a special thanks goes out to all our Third District members that attended.

Our new incoming President, Stacy Bane and Vice President, Veronica Daniel were installed during the conference. Welcome aboard and thank you for stepping up!

The third district is still in first place in membership standings at 93.99%. Keep up the fantastic job as we are only in first place by .09%. A big thank you goes out to Sandy Scallon, Third District Membership Chair for all your hard work and a job well done!! It is appreciated.

I would also like to send a huge thank you to all the

units that have supported the District President's Project, your support is appreciated by many! If you have not donated, there is still time.

I look forward to seeing our legion family members at the Des Moines Holiday Inn Airport from July 19 - 21 for the 2024 Department Convention. Please support "What's in the Bag" fundraiser for Junior Camp which will be held during the convention. Also, snacks for the Hospitality Suite are always appreciated.

Thank you everyone for allowing me to serve as your Third District President! "HATS OFF TO OUR VETERANS" and never forget to "BE THE ONE".



4th District President Dee Onken

Greeting 4th District,

Our thanks to Oelwein Auxiliary and Post members for hosting our 4th District Spring Conference March 23rd. All your hard work was greatly appreciated for a successful conference!

We were honored to have Dept. President Mary Sypherd, NEC Kelly Elliott, Verlinda Prior, Dept. Vice President, Jayne Soppe, Past Dept. Pres./DEC, Crystal Wright, Exec. Director, & Elaine Brookins, Dept.

Membership as guest speakers. Also joining us were Kim Dixon, Girls State and Judy Ring, VA & R-Service to Veterans. Congratulations to our new district officers for 2024-2025 who were installed by Dept. President Mary. Elaine Brookins, Dept. Membership, brought news that our district is in seventh place for membership at 89.97%. Ok District Auxiliary members, PLEASE continue to keep working to get the District %'s increased for paid membership!

The recipient for District Auxiliary Member of the Year is Betty Helgerson of Clermont. The Merit Award Committee announced ten recipients of District Merit Awards. Jan Stern of Mason City announced

Sept. 28, 2024 is the North IA Southern MN Veteran Stand Down at North IA Event Center in Mason City.

Thanks and appreciation for all the donations for my District President projects! March 29th four from 4th District attended IVH's tour and I had a photo op for presenting our district check toward a blanket warmer for IVH.

Please make plans to join us at Department Convention in Des Moines July 19-21, 2024 to be held at the Des Moines Holiday Inn Airport.

I wish to thank all for your great support for my two years as your District President!



5th District President Tammi Quinlan

Hello 5th District!

I hope everyone is enjoying the Spring weather!

5th District Spring Conference was held on April 20th at my Auxiliary home, Deep River. We had an amazing turnout with

almost 80 in attendance between the Legion and Auxiliary. I am very hopeful that this trend continues. We had many guests in attendance, including President Mary. Elections were held and I will remain your District President for a second year, Gail Johnson will be your new Vice President and Doris Jackson will remain Treasurer and will be taking on the roll of Secretary as well.

5th District Fall Conference will be held at the Newton Legion on October 19, 2024.

Since I will remain President for a second year, our 5th District Project of a Be The One Billboard, will continue. We plan to do a fundraiser for our project in the Fall. Everyone will be invited once we have a date.

Please remember that I am here to help. If your Unit is struggling, reach out. I would love to sit down with your Unit and brainstorm.

Everyone, please remember your "Why" and continue to grow our Auxiliary.



6th District President Janet Tracy

My year as District 6 President is quickly coming to a close and with it comes many wonderful memories and new friendships made, but of course the best part was hearing all that our Units are accomplishing for the benefit of our veterans. Thank you to all members for your many hours and dollars given (via your impact reports), and especially your continued commitment to honor and serve our veterans through your Units, the end result being that it also served ALA District 6, of which I was very thankful to have served.

The Mid-Winter conference in Feb was a great time

to connect with members as we all continue working on the same mission. A highlight for many, including myself, was hearing the 3 area Legion Oratorical Speech contest winners present their 8-10 min. memorized speeches on the Constitution. I had never been able to attend the Sunday AM session to hear these high school students, so WOW, was I ever impressed!! A special thrill was to have our District 6 contestant, Karli Roth, be selected to represent Iowa at Natl. in mid-May!!

I attended the Dallas and Story County meetings in March—loved hearing the great unit reports, and of course connecting with members through conversation and great meals. Many thanks to all the officers who again stepped up to serve a 2nd year. Spring Conference was April 20 in Norwalk. So

awesome to present certificates to 5 units who met their 100% membership goal. Thankful to have a full slate of officers for next year and also for the many units who generously supported my project. We ended the day with a group picture of all who were dressed in purple in honor of "April-the Month of the Military Child."

I challenge all of us to keep working hard to get ALA out in the community, especially with poppy distributions and summer activities coming up. Hope to see many of you at Department Convention July 19-21 as we give our final 2023-24 "Hats Off to Veterans" salute!! Everyone keep working hard—our veterans are so worth it!!



7th District President Rhonda Russell

This year is just flying by. It is time to start planning your summer. Please consider attending the Department Convention in July. Last year we

had a seating section for District 7 and we had more people than reserved for that area, which is GREAT!! I would love to have even more. The Walk for Veterans at the State Fair is on August 12th. Look for details on the website. I will be looking for a place to host the workshop on August 10th. Please let me know if your unit would be interested. Let's get rolling on those

membership dues this year so we surpass last year. I look forward to serving you again this year. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.



9th District President Sandi Cox

Greetings from 9th District, What a fun year it has been being your 9th District President. I have enjoyed meeting so many of our members in 9th District. Thank you

for all of your support. The year has gone fast. Thank you Holstein for hosting our Spring Conference. We were honored to have several Department Officers and Committee persons join us. Friday night's weather was a little scary, so thank you for making the trip. I hope that as the Units talked about all their activities that there was something that you could bring back to your Units. I know my own Unit seems to pick up one or two ideas from others at the

Conferences. It was exciting to see some new faces at Conference. We had several that said it was their first time. Linda Lux from the Alton Unit was elected as our next District President.

I am receiving Year-End Impact Reports. You have been busy and very generous this past year. I know there are a few Units that do not turn in a report, but those that did "Thank you". It is really important that you try and keep track of your hours. If you have questions on how to fill out the form, please reach out to myself or your County President.

I want to thank the Units and some Posts for donating to my projects. The new hospice cottage at the Sioux Falls VA is scheduled to be opened late summer. It will be a 10 bed facility. The hospice area and their "Wishes for Heroes" program is one of my projects. If you have items that need to get to the Omaha VA

for my Activity & Comfort Carts project, please let me know. Partners for Patriots is my other project. They provide service dogs for disabled Veterans. There is still time if you want to donate to any of those projects.

I am looking forward to Convention in Des Moines in July. If you have an item for the 9th District's theme basket or a bag for "What's in the Bag" for the Junior Camp fundraisers, please let me know. Your Unit President knows what my "theme" is. Top selling District President's themed basket will receive \$50 towards their President's project.

Remember to get those last memberships in. As of right now, 9th District is in 4th place. Remember your WHY by renewing your ALA membership.

I want to wish you a wonderful summer and thank you for all of your support this past year.



Helen Hildebrand, Candidate for Department of Iowa American Legion Auxiliary Historian

I ask for your support as a candidate for Historian. I have been a member of Farley Unit #656 since 2006. I am eligible thru my father and both of my grandfathers. I served as unit secretary until stepping up to be unit president, which is my current position at the unit level.

I have attended almost all of the county & district conferences, along with attending Mid-Winter and State Conventions, serving as page at many of these conferences. I move on to be

Dubuque County officer, which include secretary and president.

I served as 2nd District President for 2 terms. I was honored to be able to attend the National Convention as a delegate for my district the last several years as well. I have served the District as Chaplain in support of recent presidents, and the past year served as Parliamentarian. I am currently serving as your Department of Iowa Chaplain.

I am active in my community that supports local charities, in fundraisers and getting members involved in doing extra activities in the community. I have worked alongside of my unit members in supporting veterans with activities during the year.

At each of these events, I try to record the activity with pictures, as I feel it is important to record the moment in time. Even if not knowing who is in the picture, it is remembering the event and how the event affects the lives that we touch. When our unit held their annual Freedom Walk on 9/11 last September our unit made sure to let the area newspaper be informed of the event. Because of this contact, our local post and unit were featured in a full page article with several pictures, remembers all those lost on that day. Given the opportunity, I will do my best in recording the upcoming year and everything we do to support our veterans. This will show how as members of the American Legion Auxiliary we are working alongside other members to support our American Legion Family and the veterans we so dearly love and support.

Therefore, with the support of my unit, county, and endorsed by my district, I ask for your support as a candidate for the Department of Iowa American Legion Auxiliary Historian.

God Bless America and our veteran families. Helen Hildebrand, Candidate for Historian.

As the Department of Iowa NEC, I have enjoyed representing Iowa. I have also enjoyed attending your District Conferences and hearing what you are doing in your Units and Districts. I learn something at each one.



As my 3-year term is coming to an end I am asking for your support to serve a second term of 3 years. I will continue to do my best to represent Iowa on the National Level. I won't be able to attend the Department Convention in July. I will be attending Girls Nation in Washington DC as Chairman. I will miss seeing everyone and hearing your reports. But please know I will be thinking of you back here in Iowa. I look forward to hearing all about it. I will share my experience on my Facebook page so make sure to watch for updates. The National Convention in New Orleans is right around the corner in August. I hope to see many of you there. As of right now I don't have any information to share.

Thank you for your continued support.
Kelly Elliott
Department of Iowa NEC

I have been endorsed by the Harry L. Anderson Unit 34 and the 5th District as a candidate for the office of Department of Iowa Vice President for the year 2024-2025

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 is currently serving the American Legion as Commander of Post #34. Steve and I have been married for 34 years and have one daughter Randie, who is also an auxiliary member and is serving as Unit #34 Girls State and Education Chair, and as member of the Executive Board.

I am a 23-year member of the Harry L. Anderson Unit #34, currently serving as President. I have served Unit #34 as President for a total of 6 years, held many offices, and have been the chair of numerous committees. I was 5th District President in 2013-2014. I am currently serving as Parliamentarian for the 5th District. I have also been committee chair of Governing Documents, Budget and Finance, Nominating, Education, and Girls State. Currently I am serving

the Department of Iowa as the Legislative Chair and in my final year of a 3-year appointment to the Girls State Board. I have also served as Chair of the Auxiliary Emergency Fund, Membership, Education, Community Service, Public Relations, Nominating Committee, and have been a Girls State Counselor for the past 8 years.

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, Mahaska Hospice Auxiliary, and volunteer at the Oskaloosa Middle School.



Kim Dixon

I am asking for your support as I pursue the Office of Department of Iowa Vice President for 2024-25. The American Legion Family is very important to me, and I would be honored to represent the Auxiliary working side by side with others in the Legion Family to honor and serve our veterans.

Public Relations

Are you branded yet with the new Legion/Auxiliary logo? Your image is as important as branding. What you wear is extremely important, it is the first impression you give when you are wearing branded clothing. Our image should not only include wearing branded clothing, but should also include knowing our surroundings and the company we keep while wearing our brand. We want to show a positive environment to encourage potential members. We want the public

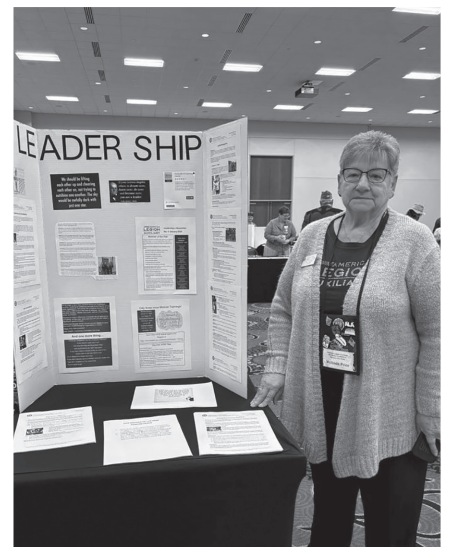
to know that we are serious about our dedication and concern for the nation's veterans, active duty military, their families and our communities. It is extremely important to maintain a positive, uplifting and encouraging image on all platforms of social media. We should share information that is pertinent to our programs. We must steer clear of political debates and negative pronouncements on the ALA platforms. What we say, how we say it and our behavior is important when it comes to what we want to express in Public Relations and to the public. We are taught to relate the Who, What, When, Where, Why, and How rule to everything we do when it comes to PR. We should also be mindful of the same "rules" as it applies to protecting our brand and our image. You know what they say, "You attract more bees with honey than vinegar", this proverb means that it is better to be kind and gentle than to be harsh and aggressive.



Donna Flewelling, Chairman

Leadership report for 2023-24

Wow, what a year it has been. There have been many highlights, lots of laughter, and a few surprises along the way. Our year started with attending fall conferences and sharing our leadership goals. It is coming to an end with several of the goals met. I have received five out of the nine district leadership reports. They are all very well written and full of important information about what is happening in their area as far as leadership goes. I also received 6 out of the nine applications for Member of the Year, so very happy to say. One has been chosen and sent on to National. MUM is the word for that name. Come to the Department



Convention to find out who it is. All others will receive an appreciation certificate. As well as the leadership entries after I choose one for the Department award. Very pleased with all the conferences that I attended, they were very well done, and courtesy was extended to all who came to learn and share information. I want to give a huge shout-out to President Mary for being such a wonderful mentor this past year. She has gone over and above to help me learn. I have many mentors, and all have been on speed calls answering immediately when the phone rings with the answers I needed. The Department office is another great source of information for all to use, please do so.

Verlinda Prior Leadership Chair 2023-2024

"What's in the Bag"

When: Department Convention, July 19, 2024

Where: The domed atrium

Time: Set up – 10:00 – 12:00

Bidding starts – 12:00

- The bags can include purses, backpacks, suitcases, briefcases, etc. of good quality, including slightly used.
- Each bag must have a tag with a hint of the contents attached.

Each district has been asked to donate a themed basket also.

Please consider donating an item for your District's Basket!

Bonus!!!! Top selling Basket

that District will receive \$50.00 towards their District President's Project.

**Thank you for your continued support!
The Junior Camp Board & Campers**

Department of Iowa Finance

Our fiscal year end is quickly approaching. Can you believe in just a month we will be at Department Convention?



Budgeting for each year is truly a guess of what is to come. Membership dues are what helps us with our overhead, obligations help some but the majority of those are earmarked for our Veterans, OUR MISSION!

As the year ends, it is truly helpful to have ALL obligations paid, remember, these were dues October 20th. Poppy proceeds should have been sent in by June 5th for ALL poppies distributed, even those your unit personally made and distributed.

We look forward to seeing each of you at convention next month!

**Dawn Aberle
Ann Crawford
Regina Chock**

HELLO LEGIONAIRES

I bring you greetings from our national commander Daniel Seehafer. He very much enjoyed his short visit with us earlier this year.

By the time you read this spring district conferences will be over. I was especially impressed with the number of people that attended the district conferences. Congratulations to the district commanders on getting out the members of their districts.

Spring meetings are now over as we traveled to Indianapolis. We had 18 resolutions to consider. NEC Bob and I had good discussions on the pros and cons of each resolution. Several of them had to do with Legionnaires running for different national offices and being qualified Resolution 35 from New York was to support legislation and send to Congress how important our veterans service officers are to our different organizations to our members and to the communities.

We also had a resolution #31 on AI artificial intelligence we need to do more studies on this as we voted to hold it for further studies, we need to know how it affects national security, ethics, and the laws we need to study this to see how it will affect the public.

A lot of discussion on BE THE ONE and the impact it is having on our veterans and the public. Buddy checks are a great and valuable way to connect with veterans and the public.

Studies are showing that we are starting to have an impact as it is slowing down the suicide rate of veterans and the public. We all need to listen to people, especially veterans, and to assist them as much as possible, especially getting them to a service officer.

Don't forget our state convention coming in July as you as members have a say in how our legion operates and remember all the good that we do with our different programs.

Until next time stay safe and recruit members to our great organization.

N.E.C.

Dennis Soppe

National Convention - New Orleans August 24-29, 2024

Delegates and Alternates to the National Convention were elected at the Spring District Conference. Those not elected as Delegates or Alternates can attend the National Convention as a Guest.

The Department of Iowa will be housed in the New Orleans Marriott Warehouse Arts District. The room rate is \$159.00 + tax. Valet Parking is \$38.00/day. Other nearby parking options are available.

The Iowa Party will be held onboard the Creole Queen Paddlewheel. Tickets are \$50.00 each and include a meal, Mississippi River cruise, and entertainment.

Forms and information are also available on the Department website at www.ialegion.org/nationalconvention/, Registration deadline is June 15.

National Legion College November 17-22, 2024

The 2024 Legion College class is scheduled for November 17-22, 2024. The 2024 student application is available at www.legion.org/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 www.legion.org/alei.

Class of 2024 student applications are due no later than July 1, 2024, to Department Headquarters. Applications must be reviewed and endorsed by the department before the national deadline.

Become a Department Volunteer

Our Department Headquarters Office and our Department Service Office have many volunteers assisting throughout the year. Some on a regular basis and others for specific projects.

Volunteers assist with filing, mailings, answering phones, data entry, cleaning, maintenance, repairs, and special projects.

Every time someone volunteers, it saves our staff time and saves our organization money.

If you or someone you know is interested in joining our volunteer group, to contact Department Headquarters or PNC Dave Rehbein. Whenever we have a project, Dave emails the group to find who is available to help.

MARKETING

Hope everyone is enjoying their summer. By the time this has come we will have completed our first of many events. I really what to thank all the volunteers who have volunteered.

Our first 5K/1K run walk is in the books and exceeded our expectation. We look forward to the next years 5K/1K fun run. We had over 70 that pre entered. We had several new companies that stepped up to help with event.

Coralville Scheels had flag exchange for their second event with great success. Jordon Creek Scheels will host their next flag exchange June 14.

We will be apart of the flag unfolding for the ARCA series race June 14. If you would like to participate contact Darrin Alderson [@darrin.alderson3@gmail.com](mailto:darrin.alderson3@gmail.com). Anyone wanting to participate must have a ticket already or you will need to purchase one.

July we will be at the Iowa Speedway for the NTT INDYCAR race with the mobile marketing booth. We will have service officers on site each day to help any veteran with questions about claims. New this year at the booth will be the autograph session bring a larger amount of people to our booth. Veterans will be able to move to the front of the line to get autographs. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Darrin Alderson.

We are looking for individuals who would like to help or be apart of our social media page to contact Darrin Alderson for the requirements. This a platform that is growing.

Again thank you everyone for volunteering to help us with our events. I'm looking for to what the future is instore for The American Legion of Iowa in remaining part of the year.

For God and Country

Darrin Alderson

Marketing Chair

Become a Monthly Donor

The American Legion of Iowa now 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 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.

You can even select where your donation can be applied:

- The American Legion, Department of Iowa
- American Legion of Iowa Boys State
- Department Service Office
- The American Legion of Iowa Foundation
- Veterans Emergency Fund
- Boys State Endowment Fund

With your generous contributions we will be able to continue to fund our programs into the future.

Baseball Committee Report

The Department Legion Baseball Tournament Championship game will be played between Swisher Post 671 Legion Baseball team and Dubuque County Legion Baseball team on Saturday July 27th at 1 pm at Prospect Meadows located at 1850 Prospect Dr., Marion, IA 52303. Swisher is looking to repeat as Champions. In 2023 they won the state and regional tournaments making it to the American Legion World Series in Shelby, NC. Dubuque County is looking to win their 4th State Championship since 2018. We had some rain outs which forced us to play the Championship game in July after the High School season is over. There were 17 senior teams registered in the Baseball program this year. Area tournaments were hosted in Council Bluffs, Carroll, Ottumwa and Dyersville. A big thank you to all the volunteers and Legion Families that helped out.

The National Legion Baseball Program will be celebrating their 100th year anniversary. The Department Baseball Committee is looking for Post's to host the 2025 Area & State tournaments.

Mike Weber

Baseball Committee Chairman Ph. 563-590-4993,

Email: mjweber1@bernardtel.com.

Foundation Decisions to be (that were) Made

There are (were) a number of decisions to be made at the annual meeting of the American Legion of Iowa Foundation. If I sound confused by saying are and were like I didn't know what is going on or when, it because this is being written before the annual meeting but you won't be reading it until after that meeting. This happens many years due to the way the dates for the Legionnaire deadline and annual meeting fall.

AS we do every year at the annual meeting, the Board of Directors will consider the applications for grants that we have received. One thing that can be said for sure is that the total of the requests will be far larger than the funds available. The board has generally approved 5% of the principal for grants. This year that number would be \$105,953.53.

It is almost guaranteed that funds will be approved for the Outstanding Citizen of Boys and Girls State and the other youth programs of the Legion family. Beyond that the Board will make their decisions case by case. That is not an easy job since there are very few of the requests that do not fit into the priorities of The American Legion. It is hard work but it is also very rewarding since it leaves us with a great feeling of accomplishment and of having been able to help those in need. Our Directors always leave the annual meeting with that inner glow that come from truly being of help to those in need.

There is another decision that is being made at this annual meeting. I have decided that it is time for me to step aside from the President's position. It is been very rewarding serving in that position but there comes time for every organization when new leadership is needed to continue to move the organization forward. For me, that time is now.

The nominating will have reported and the election will be held. I have faith that the selection that our Board makes will be the right decision for the Foundation. It is important that the Foundation continues to grow. The need for the work that the Foundation does continues to grow. Without the Foundation growing, some of that needed work will not get done.

I want to thank everyone that has contributed to the Foundation, both with their funds but also with their time. I will remain a Board member and pledge to help the new leadership as they work to continue to build the Foundation.

David Rehbein, President

Department Color Guard Competition

The Department Color Guard Contest will be held on Saturday at the Department Convention. Rules and entry forms are available on the Department website at www.ialegion.org/departmentconvention. 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.



AMERICANISM

JUNE 2024

Are you proud to be an American? Do you relish every day you live in America? Every day when you wake up, does having freedom feel good to you? What does this feeling of

Freedom feels like? Do you love the feeling or don't even think about IT, it is always there as we except it to be. You ask, what do these questions have to do with Americanism? These questions are important to every person living in America. Each of them has a meaning, involving the definition of Americanism. Does the honor and privilege to vote give you a good feeling, that you can cast a vote of your choice, or does having this privilege matter? No other country that you could live in gives you the privilege to have or express this option. Americanism says you love living in America, where the democratic form of government is of the people, for the people and by the people. (meaning you and I). Americanism is an expression of action and duty each person has the right and duty to vote in the primaries.

By voting in the primaries, gives us the opportunity to continue living freely in a democracy we enjoy, when we vote to elect our candidate of choice in the general election. However, we need to read and study about the candidates asking for our vote before we elect them. Each candidate has their good and not so good sides. When our forefathers came to America to start a new way of living, one allowing them to live in a land of Freedom from one's rule. No longer did they wish to be controlled by a single individual or ruling party. A Constitution was formed through prayer, diligence, and the undeniable want to have a

democratic form of government. That constitution was well thought out to cover any possibility for an undemocratic way of government to be formed. Today our form of government is being challenged.



Riders 2024

is off to a great start. Midwinter Conference saw what had to be a record crowd for the Riders Meeting. The sign in sheets totaled 80 attendees and the room was set for only a little more than that. The growth of our numbers, and our participation as Legion Riders at all levels of the Legion Family is impressive, and we have Riders in Department, District, and Post leadership positions. As your chairman, I want to say Thank You. I was recently approached by Mark Clark, the National ALR Chairman for a rundown of "all the great things the riders are doing in Iowa". He's incorporating us into his presentation to National. I told him that as a family this year we've raised several thousand dollars for our Department's Veterans Emergency Fund, (like the V&C Foundation). We've begun collecting donations for this year's Legacy Run, and indications are we will have 15-20 Iowa Riders going to New Orleans, the District Chairs are organizing Legacy Runs by their Districts, and we've taken the lead in getting and sharing information about the Veteran's and Children's Foundation with Posts at District Conferences to help in the fundraising efforts. The Iowa Riders have donated time and dollars to the Iowa Veterans Home, raised funds for the placement of several thousand wreaths for Wreaths Across America around the state, and completed so many other local missions I have lost count. They've been involved in community grants for their own areas, and best of all, they've increased the membership of the AL, ALA, and SAL by recruiting new members from outside the American Legion Families.

Last year we chartered Three new Chapters, so far this year we have 4 new Chapters complete or nearly complete. Let's welcome Swisher, Farmington, Marengo, and Fairfax to the family! At the convention I hope to be able to announce a few changes for us, I'm exploring one Statewide Legacy Run, and I'd like to start a Riders Chapter of the Year Award, an idea suggested by the Waukee Chapter. So, keep track of your events, your hours, and your miles. It might just earn you the first ever RCY Award.

We'll see you at the Convention, and until then, Ride safe, and Ride often.

THE ONE-HUNDRED AND FIFTH ANNUAL CONVENTION THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF IOWA

The One-Hundred and Fifth Annual Convention of The American Legion, Department of Iowa, will be held in Des Moines, Iowa, July 19, 20, & 21, 2024. The Convention will be called to order at 4:00 p.m., Friday, July 19, in Ballroom Central and South of the Holiday Inn Airport Conference Center in Des Moines, Iowa.

PURPOSE

The Convention is called for the purpose of:

- Electing Department Officers for the ensuing year;
- Ratification of Constitution and Bylaws;
- Selecting the place of holding the One Hundred and Seventh Annual Department Convention;
- Selecting delegates and alternates to the One-Hundred and Fifth Annual National Convention; and
- For the transaction of such other business as may be brought before the Convention.

REPRESENTATION

Representation will be by Post. Each Post is entitled to two delegates and two alternates, provided it has at least 15 paid up members by 4:00 p.m. June 19, 2024. Each Post is also entitled to one delegate and one alternate for each additional 50 paid up members or a major fraction thereof, whose dues have been paid on or before 4:00 p.m. June 19, 2024.

The vote of each Post will be equal to the total number of delegates to which it is entitled.

All Past Department Commanders of the Iowa Department of The American Legion, who are members in good standing in any Post in the Department, present and in attendance at the Department Convention, shall be entitled to all the privileges of a delegate to said convention, and entitled to a vote therein.

SELECTION OF DELEGATES

All Post delegates and alternates to the Convention will be selected at a regular meeting of the Post, or a special meeting called for that purpose.

Post Adjutants should give notice in writing to each member of the Post of the date, time, purpose, and place of such meeting, and the number of delegates to which it is entitled in the Convention.

Alternates have power to vote only in the absence of delegates but have all other privileges of delegates.

Delegates should be chosen with care as they have voting power of the Post on all questions brought before the Convention.

EXPENSES OF DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES

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

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

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

DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS

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

REGISTRATION AND HOUSING

Delegates, alternates, and guests attending the Convention must register. **A \$20.00 registration fee will be collected from all delegates, alternates, and guests at registration.**

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

CREDENTIALS FOR DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES

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

OFFICIALS

Present Department and Post Officers, members of the Department Executive Committee, except Past Department Commanders, Officers of District and County organizations, unless selected as delegates and alternates to the Convention by their Post, have no privileges in the Convention except as guests of their respective delegations.

It is suggested that these officials be made members of the official Post delegation, as their experience will be exceedingly valuable to the delegation.

RESOLUTIONS

Any Post or accredited delegate to the Convention may submit resolutions embodying constructive suggestions for the welfare of The American Legion. They should be in duplicate, typewritten, and shall be turned into the Department Adjutant on or before July 5, 2024, in order that the resolutions may be referred to the Resolutions Assignment Committee. A Resolution form with instructions is enclosed. More can be obtained by contacting the Department Adjutant.

CONVENTION COMMITTEES

Friday, July 19, 2024, 1:00 p.m.

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

DISTRICT CAUCUSES

Saturday, July 20, 2024, 2:00 p.m.

District caucuses will be held at 2:00 p.m. Special rooms will be provided. The districts will conduct such business as may properly come before such caucuses.

JOHN A. DERNER
Department Adjutant

STANLEY ELLIOTT
Department Commander

**POST & SQUADRON
EVERLASTING
02/01/2024 – 4/30/2024.**Alexander H Paul
Robert D Burgher
Ron Bartlett**SPENCER #1**
Marvin D Somers**NEW HAMPTON #38**
Joseph L Glaser**OTTUMWA #3**
James Cutsforth**BELLE PLAINE #39**
James C Chekal
Harold O Ealy Jr
Robert W Hupfeld
Anders J Norgaard**DUBUQUE #6**
Thomas H Berndt
Jerome J Jaeger
E A Langanis
Nicholas R Lucy
Robert R Wiederholt
Robert A Spoerre
James L Hirsch
Neil Ransford
Vincent J Martensen
Ronald L Hixon
Paul S Olds
William L Folger
Gordon
J Neumann
Wayne Bauer
Millard Engelkins
Dan H Arling Sr
David J Cosley
Daryl D Griffith**MARSHALLTOWN #46**
Alan J Hoop**NORMA L BAUMAN #47**
Norma L Bauman**LANSING #50**
Kenneth J Leppert**BURLINGTON #52**
William A Schwind
Edgar Laue**VICTOR #54**
Donald F Nicklas
Richard Dean Huedepohl**OGDEN #55**
Merle Winterfield**BOONE #56**
Darrell L Lundien
Lee D Lingren**VINTON #57**
James W Hyde
Ernest D Riggle**MT. PLEASANT #58**
Rodney Mehaffy**STORY CITY #59**
Gerald Risden**IDA GROVE #61**
Lawrence Lansink**SIoux CITY #64**
Rudolph C Salem**CORYDON #68**
Daryl A Cox
Max D Moore**GARWIN #71**
Jerry Claussen**TOLEDO #72**
William R Roddan**MAQUOKETA #75**
Ervin Mangler Jr**MARENGO #76**
Ira W Berstler
Kenneth L Fekkether
Richard L Hautekeete
Robert E Lindsey
Marlin Niday
Jack J Tripolino
Donald J Misel
Frank A Vrba**BLOOMFIELD #78**
Jack Woolard**HEDRICK #83**
Melvin D Spears**SALEM #94**
Eugene M Stewart**PAULLINA #95**
Lyle W Wallin
Gordon Rohros**MINBURN #99**
Ernest D Faber**COLUMBUS JCT. #100**
Brian Cummings**MASON CITY #101**
Philip W Ketchum
Charles D Petzoldt
Thomsas E Marchant**PLEASANTVILLE #108**
Frank M Dejoode
Philip L Richards**LISBON #109**
Robert J Laas**NEWTON #111**
Larry D Lint**KEOSAUQUA #113**
Willard H Hoskin
Wayne Strait
Robert E Galloway**AUDUBON #120**
Leroy Nielsen**FOREST CITY #121**
George O Bartleson**STATE CENTER #122**
Raymond Frohwein**GLADBROCK #127**
Richard Klinefelter**SIDNEY #128**
William G Long
Russell R Severen**FT. DODGE #130**
Joe D Lewis**WATERLOO #138**
Jim Hook
Gene A Johnson
George Schumacher
Duane Nottger**TRAEER #142**
William C Talen**SHELDON #145**
Bernard G Wissink**Harlan #150**
Gary Kenkel
Melvin E Vogt Sr**BEDFORD #164**
Patricia A Sparks
James A Schrodt**MONTEZUMA #169**
Robert E Nelson**MT AYR #172**
John H Barber
Jeremaih Murphy**WAVERLY #176**
Donald A Radloff**SEYMOUR #180**
David H Hesse**WINTERSET #184**
Sydney Sickels
Michael E Patterson**AKRON #186**
James R Welch
Malcolm W brodie
Robert G Utesch
Jerome E Adams**IA FALLS #188**
Ronald R Baumann**SIoux CENTER #199**
Warren L Post
William D Kooi**ELDON #206**
Ronald Ragen Sr**LAPORTE CITY #207**
William J Fleck**REMSSEN #220**
Gerald Vaske**SUMMER #223**
Richard Bergman
Orville Roth
Melvin Ohlendorf**HOLSTEIN #225**
Brian N McCrory**CORWITH #229**
Garry L Brown**POLK CITY #232**
Keith A Anderson**CEDAR FALLS #237**
James B Elliott
Wayne L Heins
Rex A Romack
Judd Truax
Jack Hovelson**DEWITT #238**
Dale L Sharp**LEMARS #241**
Gene Kipp
Doanld Overman
Larry A Petersen**REINBEK #242**
Lowell L Trepp**MAXWELL #249**
Paul V Viers**ACKLEY #252**
Robert F Schumacher
Virgil P Vanderloo
Harvey Gerzema**GARNER #256**
Harold Nielsen
Eldon J Beers
Francis J Young**REDFIELD #261**
Harold E Rolston
Donnie R Wagers
Theodore T Winters Jr
Ronald P McDowell**URBANA #264**
James L Howard**CALMAR #266**
Dennis Huinker
Lester R Olson
John D Meyer**MCGREGOR #267**
Dennis D Regal
Tony L Huebsch**BELLEVUE #273**
Donald M Michel
Cletus J Victor
Louis J Weis**DES MOINES #274**
Harry W Arnold
Dennis Capps**PARKERSBURG #285**
David M Dicks
Charles L Etjen**CLARENCE #286**
Robert S Miller**ASHTON #290**
William E Strouth**MARION #298**
George D Aldrich
Donald C Kaplan
William B Harnish
Clair Clark
Jim N Winn**ALBERT CITY #299**
Kenneth Swenson**MECHANICSVILLE #309**
David E Ferguson
Robert E Davis**HOPKINTON #311**
Larry D Andersen
William A Dingbaum**BRITT #315**
Eugene E Shipler**SIBLEY #324**
Bernhart W Eckhoff
Daryl L Schwarzkopf
Alvin Jurrens**OCHEYEDAN #326**
Paul Hibma**SPRINGVILLE #331**
Thomas L Finn**FAYETTE #339**
Wayne M Holtzman
Kent P Schuchmann**STANWOOD #348**
Dale H Coppess**ELGIN #352**
Jerry L Erickson**DUMONT #360**
Charles Baltes**COGGON #362**
Robert J Henderson**DES MOINES #374**
Ronald Scherer**WALKER #376**
Russell L Hendryx**HULL #380**
Tim Kooima**MILFORD #384**
William Boese
James E Bonnstetter**GLIDDEN #386**
James R Genter
Jerry Bennett**UNIONVILLE #407**
James R Baty**EVERLY #414**
Terry D Muckey**CENTRAL CITY #421**
George Robinson
Roger S Clarke**DURANT #430**
Warren O Voss**GOWRIE #431**
Russell Norine**EARLVILLE #436**
Eugene J Krapfl**SILVER CITY #439**
Walter D Codney**UTE #442**
Warren W Thies
Darrell C Mitchell
Dennis D McQueen**CLUTIER #453**
Dennis D Bradley**GALVA #454**
Norm F Moffitt**RHODES #456**
Gary Buck**LONE TREE #457**
Wayne W Jarrard
Kurt D Karnstedt**OLON #460**
William J Leonard**ADEL #464**
William F Baldon
William D Haglund
Marvin W Jamison
Robert R Decamp**OXFORD JCT #473**
Kenton Heggebo
Merle Rickels**DONNELSON #474**
Thomas M Driscoll**DAVENPORT #482**
James E Wilson**MILTON #483**
Bobby Holsapple**CASTANA #502**
Herman J Doidge**OSSIAN #503**
Lowell Corlett**WEST BRANCH #514**
Terry L McDonald
Leif J McGowan**MARCUS #517**
Henry Busch Jr
Milton A Wurth**POSTVILLE #518**
Dwight D Bacon**JANESVILLE #522**
Virgil B Sell**DOWS #523**
Marvin A Honold**CASCADE #528**
Thomas E Reddin
Merlin J McDermott**OXFORD #537**
Ronald E Loan
Michael J Scheetz**WALCOTT #548**
James A Marten**FAIRBANK #552**
Bill Trebon**ELY #555**
Donald G Rompot
Marvin J Stallman**BONAPARTE #563**
Carl R Proper**FAIRFAX #572**
Kenneth E Erger
John R Herder
Phillip J Lowder**VARINA #588**
Charles L Halder**ELMA #597**
Leonard Shatek**PRESTON #602**
Verlyn Bormann
Ardo Schmidt
Donald L Dethmann**LAUREL #635**
Richard W Harmon**EPWORTH #650**
James McQuillen**DENVER #653**
William E Deckard**FARLEY #656**
Keith J Urbain**DES MOINES #659**
Douglas L Sigler
Lawrence E Contri
Thomas D Stanley**SGT BLUFF #662**
Leroy M Mohr
Robert O Butler
Gary G Skinner
John Marrinan**URBANDALE #663**
R M Andrews
Keith E Eakins Sr**SWISHER #671**
Donald L Remour
Ricky L Marlatt
John W Bilsland**ALTOONA #682**
Steven Kellerhals
Ronald Trickett
Merlen G Fry**BLUE GRASS #711**
Lowell S Tennyson**LAWTON #718**
Jerry L Witt**HARPERS FERRY #722**
Cyril A Hawes
Roland A Genz**BRUNSVILLE #724**
Colin Collmann**CEDAR RAPIDS #727**
Wayne A Murdock**IOWA #729**
Floyd E Campbell
Daniel D Daggett
William P Mathews
Loyd R Andrew
Robert Morrison
Robert G Moore
Michael Gardner
Robert G Moore
Michael Gardner
Eugene A Litten
Jim Zuidema
Kenneth Casperson
William V Kearney
Richard Mentzer
Richard Bloemke
Jim Edwards
William Eggers**MARSHALLTOWN #739**
Scotty S Sheets
Gregg V Mjelde**SQUADRON
EVERLASTING****MUSCATINE #27**
Joseph D Starkweather**AMES #37**
Jeffrey S Sobotka**NEWTON #111**
Chris Sears**GUTHRIE CENTER #124****PALMER 202**
John Sukovaty**BELLEVUE #273**
Delbert J Klemme**DES MOINES #274**
Patrick L McGillan**SPRINGVILLE #331**
James G Thomas
Donald Coonrod

THE AMERICAN LEGION OF IOWA 105TH DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

Holiday Inn Des Moines Airport Conference Center

Des Moines, Iowa – July 19, 20, & 21, 2024

Headquarters Office – Room 298

THURSDAY – JULY 18, 2024

5:00 p.m. Resolutions Assignment Committee – Room 175
8:00 p.m. Marketing Commission – Room 397

FRIDAY – JULY 19, 2024

9 a.m. – 7 p.m. American Legion Registration – Ballroom Foyer
9:00 a.m. Credentials Committee – Room 292
9:00 a.m. Commission & Committee Chair Meeting – Iowa C
9:30 a.m. Rules Committee – Room 292
Department Commission Meetings
9:00 a.m. Convention Commission – Iowa B
10:00 a.m. Americanism Commission – Iowa E
Baseball Committee
Boy Scout Committee
Children & Youth Committee
Community Service Committee
Junior Shooting Sports Committee
Oratorical Contest Committee
10:00 a.m. Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission
– Iowa C
Health Administration Committee
Veterans Benefits Committee
10:00 a.m. Legislative Commission – Room 396
10:00 a.m. National Affairs Commission – Room 398
10:00 a.m. Internal Affairs Commission – Iowa D
Training Committee
Membership Committee
S.A.L. Committee
Strategic Planning Committee
American Legion Riders Committee
1:00 p.m. Convention Committee Meetings
Americanism – Iowa E
Internal Affairs – Iowa D
National Affairs – Room 398
Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation – Iowa C
Legislative and Constitution & Bylaws – Room 396
Finance and Marketing – Room 394
2:30 p.m. Liaison Committee – Iowa B
4:00 p.m. General Session – Ballroom Central & South
Call to Order – Stanley Elliott,
Department Commander
Advancement of Colors – American Legion
Post #430, Durant
Invocation – Whitney Smith McIntosh,
Department Chaplain
POW/MIA Flag – Candice Miller,
Department Sergeant-At-Arms & Sam Blumer,
Department Vice Commander
Pledge of Allegiance – Fritz Keys,
Department Vice Commander
Preamble – Amy Muse,
Department Vice Commander
Greetings – Veterans Organizations & Public Officials
Report of Rules Committee
Report of Credentials Committee
Report of the National Executive Committee,
Dennis Soppe
Report of Department Officers
Department Service Officer, Shane Pankonen
Department Chaplain, Whitney Smith McIntosh
Department Historian, Julius Sisco
Department Adjutant, John Derner
6:00 p.m. Recess
6:00 p.m. Color Guard Contest Registration & Meeting
– Iowa B
7:00 p.m. Joint Session – Ballroom
The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary &
Sons of The American Legion

Call to Order – Stanley Elliott,
Department Commander
Receive donations for American Legion
Family programs
Address – Jim Lastovka, Detachment Commander
Sons of The American Legion
Address – Amara Edwards Hinton,
Department Junior President
American Legion Auxiliary
Address – Mary Sypherd, Department President
American Legion Auxiliary
Address – Stanley Elliott, Department Commander
The American Legion
Address – Raymond Vail (KS),
National Vice Commander
The American Legion
Adjourn Joint Session
9:00 p.m. Hospitality - Courtyard

SATURDAY – JULY 20, 2024

8 a.m.–2 p.m. American Legion Registration – Ballroom Foyer
7:00 a.m. Foundation Breakfast – Iowa D & E
9:00 a.m. General Session – Ballroom Central & South
Call to Order – Stanley Elliott,
Department Commander
American Legion of Iowa Foundation Grant
Awards - President
Boys State Report – Brian Ring, Boys State
President Dave Schaefer, Boys State Director
Commission/Committee Reports
Americanism Commission – Jim Kessler, Chair
Educator of the Year – Jim Kessler, Chair
5th Grade Flag Essay – Cindy Yslas, Chair
Boy Scouts – William Greenleaf, Chair
Baseball – Michael Weber, Chair
Oratorical – Bob Waugh, Chair
Junior Shooting Sports – Gary Palas, Chair
Children & Youth – Cindy Yslas, Chair
Community Service – Roger Hopwood, Chair
Finance Commission – James Kessler, Chair
Report – Candice Lanning,
Department Finance Officer
Marketing Commission – Darrin Alderson, Chair
Promotions & Revenue Enhancement
– Charlie Bowser, Chair
Media & Communications – Jim Kearney, Chair
11:30 a.m. Recess
11:30 a.m. Past District Commanders' Luncheon – Iowa D & E
1:00 p.m. General Session – Ballroom Central & South
Call to Order – Stanley Elliott,
Department Commander
Art McLaughlin Legionnaire of the Year Award
Commission/Committee Reports (Continued)
National Affairs Commission
– Fidell Wadsworth, Jr., Chair
Internal Affairs Commission
– Jennifer Rehbein, Secretary
Membership – Brian Ring, Sr., Chair
Sons of The American Legion – Randy Freel, Chair
Strategic Planning – Dennis Soppe, Chair
Training – Amy Muse, Chair
American Legion Riders – Cliff Barker, Chair
Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation
– Tim McLaughlin, Chair
Health Administration – Janet Grass, Chair
Veterans Benefits – Jerald Hansen, Chair
Legislative Commission – Randy Johnson, Chair
Convention Commission – Randy Johnson, Chair

1:50 p.m. Recess
2:00 p.m. District Caucuses
1st Room 397
2nd – Westview Central
3rd – Room 396
4th – Room 394
5th – Room 175
6th – Room 398
7th – Room 292
8th – Westview South
9th – Westview North
3:30 p.m. Convention Committee Meetings (Continued)
Convention Place – Room 396
American Legion Riders – Ballroom Central & South
5:00 p.m. Color Guard Practice – Iowa B & C
5:00 p.m. Color Guard Contest – Iowa B & C
5:30 p.m. Color Guard Judging – Room 292
5:45 p.m. Iowa Military Veterans Band Practice – Iowa A
6:00 p.m. Iowa Military Veterans Band Concert – Iowa A
7:00 p.m. Evening Hospitality - Courtyard

SUNDAY – JULY 21, 2024

8 - 10 a.m. American Legion Registration – Ballroom Foyer
8:00 a.m. Memorial Service – Ballroom
9:00 a.m. General Session – Ballroom Central & South
Call to Order – Stanley Elliott,
Department Commander
Report of Convention Committees
Americanism
Internal Affairs
National Affairs
Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation
Finance and Marketing
Legislative and Constitution & Bylaws
Convention Place
Special Order of Business –
American Legion of Iowa Boys State Annual Meeting
Ratification of Department Constitution & Bylaws
Election and Ratification of Delegates & Alternates
to 2024 National Convention – New Orleans, LA
Report of Liaison Committee – Jim Zacharias., Chair
Nomination & Election of Department Officers
Benediction – Whitney Smith McIntosh,
Department Chaplain
Retirement of Colors
Adjourn
DEC Photos – Iowa D
Boys State Board Meeting – Iowa B & C
Post-Convention DEC Meeting – Iowa B & C
SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
DETACHMENT CONVENTION

FRIDAY - JULY 19, 2024

8 – 10 a.m. SAL Registration – Ballroom Foyer
7:00 p.m. Joint Session – Ballroom

SATURDAY - JULY 20, 2024

8a.m.– 2 p.m. SAL Registration – Ballroom Foyer
8:30 a.m. SAL Memorial Service – Des Moines Room
9:00 a.m. Detachment Convention – Des Moines Room



National Commander Daniel Seehafer visited the Robert Morgan Meskwaki Nation Post 701, on February 17, 2024, held at the Meskwaki Bingo Casino Hotel Convention Center. Post Vice Commander Daniel Wabaunasee and Post Commander Craig Young Bear are pictured with National Commander Seehafer as they present him with a gold Meskwaki Nation Code Talkers minted medallion.



National Commander Daniel Seehafer visits the Robert Morgan, Meskwaki Nation Post 701, on February 17, 2024, held at the Meskwaki Bingo Casino Hotel Convention Center. Pictured with National Commander Seehafer are two representatives of the Meskwaki Nation, Veterans Princess Isabella Kapayou and Meskwaki Annual Powwow Princess Jayci Bear.



National Commander Daniel Seehafer visits Charles Horton Post 739, Marshalltown, on February 17, 2024, held at the Iowa Veterans Home. NC Seehafer presents the Charles Horton Post 739 Charter to Commander Jack Studebaker.



Tammy Stasi
5th Grade teacher,
Oelwein Middle School

The 2024 Department of Iowa Educator of the Year Tammy Stasi

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 of its citizens. My students learn why the United States of America is the envy of the entire world.

Tammy Stasi



Walk for Veterans

The American Legion of Iowa
Walk for Veterans at the Iowa State Fair

Monday, August 12, 2024

Veterans Day at the Iowa State Fair

Veterans' Parade

Staging time: 7:00 – 10:30 am

Parade: 11:00 am

Department Commander Stanley Elliott will lead American Legion family members and friends in the Walk for Veterans. Download the registration form at www.ialegion.org/wfv You can also pick up a registration form at Headquarters

- All participants must register with The American Legion of Iowa before July 25, 2024.
- Registration is free.
- All walk participants must wear The American Legion Walk for Veterans shirt. We have a limited supply available. Please contact headquarters for size options at (515)282-5068.
- All parade participants will receive free entry into the Iowa State Fair after the parade.
- Parking is not included.
- Participants must report to the staging area before 10:30 am.

