



PREAMBLE TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

For God and Country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes:

To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America;

To maintain law and order;

To foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism;

To preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in all wars;

To inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation;

To combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses;

To make right the master of might;

To promote peace and goodwill on earth;

To safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of Justice, Freedom and Democracy;

To consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness

THE AMERICAN LEGION OF IOWA 107TH DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

HOLIDAY INN DES MOINES AIRPORT CONFERENCE CENTER
DES MOINES, IOWA – JULY 16, 17, 18, & 19, 2026
HEADQUARTERS OFFICE – ROOM 298

THURSDAY – JULY 16, 2026

- 1:30 p.m. **Boys State Board** – Room 397
- 3:00 p.m. **Marketing Commission** – Room 397
- 5:00 p.m. **Resolutions Assignment Committee** – Room 175

FRIDAY – JULY 17, 2026

AMERICAN LEGION REGISTRATION – BALLROOM FOYER – 9:00 AM – 7:00 PM

- 8:00 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
 - Be The One 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
 Call to Order – Darrin Alderson, Department Commander
 Advancement of Colors – American Legion Post #430, Durant
 Invocation – Richard Echelberger, Acting Department Chaplain
 POW/MIA Flag – Kurt Kollasch, Department Sergeant-At-Arms
 Gary Quinlan, Department Vice Commander
 Pledge of Allegiance – Ed Fontes, Department Vice Commander
 Preamble – Ken Fields, Department Vice Commander
 Greetings – Veterans Organizations & Public Officials
 Call to Convention
 Report of Rules Committee
 Report of Credentials Committee
 National Executive Committee Member Report, Bob Waugh
 Department Officer Reports
 Department Service Officer, Shane Pankonen
 Department Chaplain
 Department Historian, Steve Dixon
 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 – Darrin Alderson, Department Commander
 Receive donations for American Legion Family programs
 Department Media Awards – Jennifer Rehbein, Chair
 Address – Doug Honse, Detachment Commander
 Sons of The American Legion
 Address – Kim Dixon, Department President
 American Legion Auxiliary
 Address – Ann Buchanan, Central Division National Vice President
 American Legion Auxiliary
 Address – Darrin Alderson, Department Commander
 The American Legion
 Address – Jerry Landkamer (NE), National Vice Commander
 The American Legion
 Adjourn Joint Session

9:00 p.m. **Hospitality - Courtyard**

SATURDAY – JULY 18, 2026

AMERICAN LEGION REGISTRATION – BALLROOM FOYER – 8:00 AM–2:00 PM

7:00 a.m. **Foundation Breakfast** – Iowa D & E

9:00 a.m. **General Session** – Ballroom
 Call to Order – Darrin Alderson, Department Commander
 American Legion of Iowa Foundation Grant Awards –
 Steve Dixon, President
 Boys State Report – Charlie Bowser, Boys State President
 Mike Vaughn, Boys State Director
 Commission/Committee Reports
 Americanism Commission – James Kessler, Chair
 Educator of the Year – James Kessler, Chair
 5th Grade Flag Essay – Polly Graham, Chair
 Boy Scouts – William Greenleaf, Chair
 Baseball – Michael Weber, Chair
 Oratorical – Roger Hopwood, Vice Chair
 Junior Shooting Sports – Gary Palas, Chair
 Children & Youth – Polly Graham, Chair
 Community Service – Roger Hopwood, Chair
 Finance Commission – Randy Johnson, Chair
 Report – Candice Lanning, Department Finance Officer
 Marketing Commission – Samuel Johnson, Chair
 Promotions & Revenue Enhancement –
 Charlie Bowser, Chair
 Media & Communications – Jennifer Rehbein, Chair

11:30 a.m. Recess

11:30 a.m. **Past District Commanders' Luncheon** – Iowa D & E

1:00 p.m. **General Session** – Ballroom
 Call to Order – Darrin Alderson, 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, Chair
 Membership – Bob Colin, Chair
 Sons of The American Legion – Gary Quinlan, Chair
 Strategic Planning – Dennis Soppe, Chair
 Training – Ken Fields, Chair
 American Legion Riders – Cliff Barker, Chair
 Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation – Tom Ryan, Chair
 Health Administration – Janet Grass, Chair
 Veterans Benefits – Jerald Hansen, Chair
 Legislative Commission – Randy Johnson, Chair
 Convention Commission – Brian Ring, Sr., Chair

1:50 p.m. Recess

2:00 p.m. **District Caucuses**
 1st Westview N
 2nd Iowa C
 3rd Room 396
 4th Westview S
 5th Room 292
 6th Ballroom
 7th Room 397
 8th Iowa B
 9th Westview C

3:30 p.m. **Convention Committee Meetings** (Continued)
 Convention Place – Room 396

5:00 p.m. **American Legion Riders** – Iowa B & C

5:00 p.m. **Color Guard Practice** – Ballroom
 5:30 p.m. **Color Guard Contest** – Ballroom
 5:45 p.m. **Color Guard Judging** – Room 292

6:00 p.m. **Iowa Military Veterans Band Practice** – Iowa A

7:00 p.m. **Iowa Military Veterans Band Concert** – Iowa A

Evening **Hospitality** – Courtyard

SUNDAY – JULY 19, 2026

AMERICAN LEGION REGISTRATION – BALLROOM FOYER – 8:00 – 10:00 AM

8:00 a.m. **Memorial Service** – Ballroom

9:00 a.m. **General Session** – Ballroom
 Call to Order – Darrin Alderson, 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
 2026 National Convention – Louisville, KY
 Report of Liaison Committee – Burdette Conover, Chair
 Nomination & Election of Department Officers
 Department Vice Commanders
 Department Commander
 Benediction – Richard Echelberger, Acting Department Chaplain
 Retire POW/MIA Flag
 Kurt Kollasch, Department Sergeant-At-Arms
 Gary Quinlan, Department Vice Commander
 Retirement of Colors
 Adjourn

DEC Photos – Iowa D

Boys State Board Meeting – Iowa B & C

Post-Convention DEC Meeting – Iowa B & C