

Consent Agenda

Reports

Department

Executive

Committee

The American Legion, Department of Iowa

Children & Youth Committee Report
(DEC Meeting - 7 November 26)

21 October 2026

In August 2026 information on the Fifth Grade Flag Essay Contest was posted on the Department website at www.ialegion.org with the currently revised 2026-2027 Fifth Grade Flag Essay Contest Application.

An email was also sent to District Commanders stressing the importance of the contest's purpose of educating our students in developing a deeper knowledge and appreciation for the United States flag along with an attached document of the application showing the following deadlines:

Legion Posts must forward one individual application (via mail or email), to the District no later than January 5, 2027

and

District Children & Youth Chairs are to forward (mail or email) to Department Headquarters, no later than January 22, 2027.

The Department Children & Youth Committee looks forward to receiving and judging as many essays as possible at Mid-Winter Conference, to help communicate and keep the program successful.

Additionally, I had the opportunity to participate in Combined Americanism Conference on 18 September 2026 in Indianapolis where better approaches to child welfare programs were discussed to optimize quality care, education and training. Posts will therefore be encouraged periodically throughout the year to utilize Children & Youth publications available at www.legion.org/advocacy/youth-support/youth-support-publications to highlight and promote various programs. We will begin with National Family Week occurring the week of Thanksgiving proclaimed by the president in 1972. A time to be thankful for the family as a national heritage and recommit ourselves to the concept of the family – encapsulating child well-being and move through April as Children & Youth Month culminating the year-end with reporting of the Consolidated Post Report.

Respectfully submitted,

Polly Graham
Department Children & Youth Committee Chair

October 2,2026

Good morning everyone.

The practice has already started for the 2027 junior shooting sports program season. We are working on getting dates set for the invitational matches leading up to the state level matches next spring.

The Department of Iowa state championship match will again be held at Miller Armory at Camp Dodge on Saturday, March 13 2027. Set up will start at around noon on Friday,the March 12th

As always if anyone is starting a new team and wishes to compete in the Dept. championship match ;your team must be registered with the Dept of Iowa by December 31, 2026

Dept. Of Iowa Championship Match registration must be complete and in the hands of Nick Barnett by March 1, 2027. No later PLEASE

To find match registration forms, go to the Dept. website ialegion.org click on programs, then click on junior shooting and . It will lead you to where you need to be for all your paperwork.

I know there always seems to be folks who forget , or what ever, that they must be registered for the match by March 1 and want to register the week of the match. We always try to facilitate these requests , but It is important to note that there is an awful lot of organizational planning and work that goes on before this match. Being late with your registration puts a lot of extra stress on Nick and the people working the match. So please try to get your registrations in on time this year it makes the whole thing work a lot smoother.

Another note: to be involved in coaching kids for the junior shooting sports program, you must pass a background check every year and also take and pass the child safe test. You will find the background check forms following the same directions given above: once you pass the background check then Nick will send you the link to take the child safe test.

Anyone wishing to help run the state championship match should contact either myself or Nick Barnett ahead of time and you must also have that background check and pass the child safe test

AGAIN:

a new team must register with Department by December 31

Registration for the state championship match in March must be completed and in Nick's hands by March 1, 2027

JSSP requires everyone working with these young folks to have a BACKGROUND CHECK and PASS the child safety test.

A junior shooting program is not easy to start or maintain. It is, however, a very rewarding program to have in your post. This program has brought my post more membership, more volunteer workers and more community awareness.

We would be glad to assist any legion
Post looking to start a Junior Shooting Sports Program anyway we can

Gary Palas
JSSP Chairman
Dept. Of Iowa

National Affairs Commission Report for the Department of Iowa DEC Meeting on November 7, 2026

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

Selections will be made after Nov 30th.

This concludes my report, but I would like to thank each and every one of you for your assistance.

Also, please continue to help get more applications in to us.

Thank You,

Bradley Powell
National Affairs Chairman.

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

Benefits Committee

There have been some recent changes to the Disabled Veteran Homestead (DVH) Credit. The Homestead definition was changes from “Dwelling + appurtenances + acreage” to “Dwelling only” and only 0.5 acres. The disabled veteran must live in the dwelling being claimed. Multiple tax credits can apply to the same property, 10% Homestead Exemption, 65+ Homestead exemption and Military Service Exemption. Then taxes are calculated. Then the DVH Credit is applied, if applicable. Current and former Guard and Reserve members qualify. Former members must have 20+ years of service and be honorably discharged.

County Service Officers did not have a Fall School this year. Commissioners were brought in for one day of training by the Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs, IDVA. I am told the Service Officers will have some training to coincide with Veterans Day at the Capitol in January.

The nomination for the Val Likens Post Service Officer of the Year, will be accepted until the close of the Mid Winter Conference. You can contact Shane at the Service Office or me for questions.

Our recommendation for filing compensation and pension claims remains to use County Veterans Service Officers to organize and file the claim. Gather evidence on the local level, and then forward the claim to Shane and his staff at the American Legion Service Office in the Federal Building. We feel this makes the best use of available services.

Jerry Hansen

Chairman

VA&R Commission, Benefits Committee