



THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF IOWA IOWA LEGIONNAIRE & Auxiliary Communiqué

An Official Publication of The American Legion, Department of Iowa: September 2019

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



Iowa's 104th Department Commander: James Kessler

The 101st Annual Meeting of The American Legion Department of Iowa concluded with a newly elected Department Commander, James Kessler, after a close roll call vote. Earning his eligibility as a Jet Engine Mechanic in the United States Air Force, Commander Kessler has been a continuous member of the American Legion for 50 years. As a Legionnaire, he has executed duties and held positions in the Post, County, District and Department levels. In addition to his service in the Legion Family, Commander Kessler has also served his community of Lake Park, Iowa through various

organizations including his church, Dickinson County Veterans Board, and local schools. Congratulations Commander, and we wish you the best on your year with The Department of Iowa.

Commander Kessler's Goals include: Assurance that benefits for the veterans and spouse are maintained, Children & Youth programs are fully utilized, Educating the public, Getting the Legion Family to be recruiters for the programs, Membership, and Help take the Department of Iowa to first place.

Commander Kessler's Projects include: Work to get all veterans off the street, Raise funds to help provide shelters for those veterans who are homeless, and Support the Fisher Houses. Read more from the Commander on Page 2.

Commander Kessler's Homecoming

Date: September 22, 2019 | Time: 2-5 pm

Harris-Lake Park MS/HS - 905 South Market Street, Lake Park, IA 51347

Reception will be held in the Commons Area, please enter through the main South doors.

LEGION Act Signed Into Law

By The American Legion

Source: www.legion.org/membership/246557/legion-act-signed-law

In a significant legislative victory for The American Legion, President Trump signed a bill July 30 that declares the United States has been in a state of war since Dec. 7, 1941.

The American Legion sought the declaration as a way to honor approximately 1,600 U.S. servicemembers who were killed or wounded during previously undeclared periods of war.

The LEGION Act (Let Everyone Get Involved In Opportunities for National Service Act) also opens the door for approximately 6 million veterans to access American Legion programs and benefits for which they previously had not been eligible.

"Recognizing the service of these wartime veterans is the right thing to do and it is long overdue," National Commander Brett Reistad said. "The families of those who were killed or wounded during these wartime acts should take pride in knowing that we recognize their sacrifice and service. Moreover, we are proud to welcome any of the six million living veterans from the previously unrecognized periods into our organization and call them 'Legionnaires.'"

Now that the legislation has been signed, The American Legion's eligibility criteria immediately changes from seven war eras to two: April 6, 1917, to Nov. 11, 1918, and Dec. 7, 1941 to a time later determined by the federal government. No other restrictions to American Legion membership are changed.

The law's journey began on Feb. 14 when Sen. Kyrsten Sinema, D-Ariz., introduced S. 504, along with Sen. Thom Tillis, R-N.C. A companion measure, H.R. 1641, was introduced in the House by Reps. Lou Correa, D-Calif., and Ben Cline, R-Va.

Reistad expressed gratitude to the bipartisan members of Congress for passing the legislation.

"We are grateful that President Trump fully acknowledges the importance of The American Legion by signing the LEGION Act in the White House today – just one week after it passed the House of Representatives," Reistad said. "In an era of partisan gridlock, Republicans and Democrats in Congress overwhelmingly recognized the importance of allowing thousands of honorable but previously ineligible veterans the right to join the largest and most influential veterans organization in the country."

Reistad pointed out that existing American Legion membership applications are in the process of being updated but can still be used. "In the meantime, I recommend that prospective Legionnaires and recruiters write 'LEGION Act' in the eligibility date section of American Legion membership applications if they fall outside the previous war eras," Reistad said. "The larger pool of veterans now eligible for The American Legion will also open their family members to eligibility in the Sons of the American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary as well."

For more information about The LEGION Act, read **Things You Should Know About The LEGION Act** on page 6.

Official White House Photo by Tia Dufour



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

DEADLINES & DATES

- September 2**
Labor Day - Dept. Offices Closed
- September 7**
Commander & President's Open House
Shellsburg
- September 14**
Detachment Commander Homecoming - Ames
- September 15**
New Boys State Board Orientation
Camp Dodge - Johnston
- September 16**
American Legion Day
- September 20-22**
National Children & Youth Conference
Indianapolis, IN
- September 22**
Commander's Homecoming - Lake Park
- September 27-29**
National Americanism Conference
Indianapolis, IN
- October 3-6**
Auxiliary National President Homecoming
- October 12**
Americanism Commission & Committees Mtg.
Dept. HQ - Des Moines
- October 13-17**
National Fall Meetings - Indianapolis, IN
- October 14**
Columbus Day - Dept. Offices Closed
- November 3-8**
National Legion College - Indianapolis, IN
Iowa Military Veterans Band - Des Moines
- November 5**
Election Day
- November 9**
Finance & DEC Mtg. - Dept. HQ, Des Moines
- November 11**
Veteran's Day - Dept. Offices Closed
- November 15**
Boys State Orientation Dates Due to Dept. HQ
Legionnaire Articles Due to Dept. HQ
- November 18-22**
National Vice Commander Tour
- November 23**
PDC Rally - Van Meter
- November 28-29**
Thanksgiving - Dept. Offices Closed
- November 30**
Firefighter of the Year & Law Enforcement
Officer of the Year Due to Dept. HQ
- December 6**
Department HQ Christmas Open House
Des Moines

THE AMERICAN LEGION



VETERANS STILL SERVING AMERICA

The American Legion, Department of Iowa

720 Lyon St., Des Moines, Iowa 50309
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American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Iowa

www.iowaala.org
515-282-7987 • 515-282-7583 (fax)

Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Iowa

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Department Commander James Kessler

Greetings from
your 2019-2020
Department



Commander. My name is James Kessler and I am a 50 year member of this great veteran's organization.

With great pleasure and honor, I introduce my wife Marilyn, and our son Brian. We are an American Legion Family. We have held various offices at post, unit, squadron levels, county, district, some Department and Detachment levels, and served on various committees within The Legion Family and community. I have a vision for this great organization to start the trend that The American Legion is the first name thought of in our communities when help is needed.

Fifty years ago, when I first became a member of this great veteran's organization, that was the case. That can become the case once again as other organizations become fewer and we continue to be a strong identity within our communities. Various organizations thought of The American Legion to help with their program. Why did we serve our country in uniform? Why are we proud of our service to the greatest flag in the world?!!! We were that identity then and we can be that identity again.

On Monday July 22 The American Legion Department of Iowa had an informational booth in Winterset, Iowa during RAGBRAI, to answer questions, and hand out pamphlets about The American Legion. As your Commander, I enjoyed the day visiting with and listening to veterans tell their stories of time spent serving their country in uniform. Answering questions from folks about The American Legion Family what we do, how they could join, and what is the requirement to join. What was really neat was people would come up and thank us for serving and neater yet was being on stage to witness no movement of anyone within seeing distance as the National Anthem was being sung. Truly a heartwarming sight, not very often seen. A salute goes out to all Legion members of the Winterset community for instilling the importance of patriotism and honoring the flag to those residing within your town and surrounding community. The Des Moines Register recognized The American Legion for 100 years of service to our communities.

My projects are getting veterans into shelters and The Fisher House. Goal is \$10,000.00 split between them.

Onward and Upward,
Commander James B. Kessler



Department Adjutant John A. Derner

At The American Legion National Membership Workshop in August, Leading Candidate for National

Commander Bill Oxford of North Carolina announced he has two goals for the 2020 membership year – to increase retention rates and to recruit more new members. Last year nationally the renewal rate for The American Legion was 86 percent and we recruited 63,000 members. Oxford is challenging us to reach 90 percent retention rate and recruit 100,000 new members.

Typically, the renewal rate in Iowa is around 90 percent. If we could increase that renewal rate to just 95 percent, it would contribute significantly to us achieving our membership goal. As I have traveled the Department of Iowa over the years, I commonly hear the concerns of posts and legionnaires regarding membership. The most common concern is the number of members we lose annually to death. While this is a legitimate concern, most of those with whom I speak are astonished to learn we lose more members annually to non-renewal than we do to death.

At the membership workshop, National Membership and Post Activities Chairman Rev. Daniel Seehafer of Wisconsin challenged us to ask, "What American Legion post do you belong to?" when we see a veteran. We must engage our fellow veterans and challenge them to join The American Legion. Membership retention and recruiting are responsibilities we all share.

Leading Candidate Oxford's also told attendees his theme for the year is "A Foundation for the Future". The American Legion has spent much of this year celebrating our centennial. And we have a lot to celebrate. For 100 years we have been serving our veterans and communities in immeasurable ways. We have a proud past, and that record of service will serve as our foundation as we move into our next century.

"The Foundation for the Future, that's us," said Chairman Seehafer. We are the ones that will build this organization and enable us to continue our tradition of service. It is only through our efforts that we will sustain and grow this organization.

During my travels, another concern frequently expressed to me is the need to expand our eligibility for membership.

Adjutant's Article Continued on Page 16

Parking Lot Project Receives A Much Needed Second Wind

The Commander's Project which began with Past Department Commander Ken Rochholz, continued under Past Department Commanders Mike Etzel and J. Scott Moline, is nearly funded. The project, which was given new requirements by the City of Des Moines, increased estimates well into the hundred thousands and put a damper on hopes of a new parking lot. However, thanks to the many generous donors, and large contributions and matching funds from Marvin Behrens (Waverly Post #176) and family, the Department Parking Lot fund stands at just over \$250,000.

The parking lot, which has been in desperate need of attention for some time now, will get a complete overhaul once plans have been secured with the City of Des Moines. The project should begin in the Spring of 2020 barring any further delays or requirements.

Thank you to all who have taken up the challenge to see this project through to its deserved completion.

National Vice Commander's Tour

The National Vice Commander tour will be held the week of November 18th to 22nd with the PDC Rally on Saturday November 23 in Van Meter.

Details have not been finalized as yet. Any posts interested in hosting an event during the tour should let the Department know by September 14 so the Membership Committee can use the information when determining the route.

Call 800-365-8387 or email info@ialegion.org.

**STAY UP-TO-DATE WITH OUR
CALENDAR OF EVENTS:**
<https://www.ialegion.org/calendar>



National Executive Committeeman Jerry Sebben

Greeting Legionnaires, I would like to congratulate Jim Kessler on being elected Department Commander and, also, the Department Vice-Commanders for the upcoming year 2019-2020. I would like to encourage the Legionnaires of Iowa to help make this year a successful one for Commander Jim and his officers.

With President Trump's signature on the Legion

Act, the extension of ongoing declared period of war was extended back to December 7, 1941. This law redefines The American Legion's membership eligibility dates. The eligibility now spans from December 7, 1941, until a time when the U.S. is no longer at war, as determined by Congress. Veterans who previously were unable to join our ranks because their service did not fall into the previously defined war eras may now do so. This is an opportunity for those veterans to now join The American Legion.

Our National Convention will be history by the time you read this. At the Indianapolis National Convention, we will elect a new Commander and five new National Vice-Commanders. One of those Vice-

Commanders will be our own Bruce Feuerbach. As you know Bruce is no stranger to the Legionnaires of Iowa. He has served as Department Commander, Alternate NEC and NEC. We will also see our very own Nicole Clapp take office as the new American Legion Auxiliary National President. This is an exciting time for Iowa. I look forward to their leadership in the coming year.

Fall District Conferences are here and Alternate National Executive Committeeman Dennis Soppe and I are looking forward to visiting your Districts.

For God and Country,
Jerry D. Sebben, NEC



Dept. Service Officer Scott Zach

Leadership is a journey — a journey traveled by an individual who has been handed over the responsibility of guiding people towards achieving a certain business objective. For the Department Service Office (DSO), the baton has now been passed and our new journey begins. My role as your Department Service Officer will be to guide and build upon the success of the DSO and motivate the staff to achieve even higher levels of performance. As servant leaders, we must be more concerned about serving people than our own success or recognition.

Briefly a little bit about me; I was born and raised in Newton, Iowa, and am the Great Grandson of Post 128 Legion Member Gilbert Zach and Grandson of Post 128 Member Robert Zach. I joined the Marine Corp in 1990 and was honorably discharged in 1998. Following my military stint, I worked at Maytag Corporation in Newton, before becoming a Certified Iowa Law Enforcement Officer and hired on as a Deputy Sheriff for Jasper County. Unfortunately, an on-duty injury ended that career resulting in me becoming medically retired. To slow down the pace I moved to Des Moines and became a Shift Supervisor for Security at UnityPoint Hospitals before being hired in July 2017, as an Accredited Service Officer with the Department of Iowa, the American Legion.

I'm deeply honored to lead the DSO and you will find our staff to be an awesome collection of authentic leaders, all genuine, all moral, and all character-based. These are individuals of the highest integrity, committed to building an enduring organization, who have a deep sense of purpose, and are true to their core values. They have long ago discovered their true north and are aligned around our shared purpose. There is more than 60 years combined experience in the United States Armed Forces in our office representing the United States Army, the United States Marine Corps, and the United States Navy.

Now that the hoopla of a change in leadership is history, we are continuing the job of the DSO working daily with the myriad of veterans from all branches of service to ensure they are awarded the benefits they have rightfully earned. Easy? Quite the contrary! Presently the biggest blip on our radar screen is Public Law 116-23, the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019, signed into law on June 25, 2019. The law takes effect January 1, 2020, and states that Veterans aboard a vessel operating not more than 12 nautical miles seaward from the demarcation line of the waters of Vietnam and Cambodia as defined in the law, between January 9, 1962, and May 7, 1975, are presumed to have been exposed to herbicides such as Agent Orange and may be entitled to service connection for conditions related to that exposure. To be entitled to disability compensation benefits, these Veterans must have one or more of the conditions associated with Agent

Orange exposure that are listed in 38 Code of Federal Regulations section 3.309(e).

Over the last two years I've developed a great relationship with our team. To get the best out of them, I must win their trust and I believe we are there. Constructive criticism, understanding their psychology, inspiring them to strive for excellence and making them feel like a family are some of the traits necessary to make this operation run smooth. We will constantly evaluate our efforts — whether we are headed in the right direction. The best way to do this — ask our team members. I'll never be shy to take feedback from them. This will give us a good idea as to whether the efforts we are making to advance as a team are fruitful or not. I want to make sure we are doing the best from our side, and that it fits within the expectations of the beholder.

Seneca the Younger, also known simply as Seneca, was a Roman Stoic philosopher, statesman, and dramatist. I will close out the first of what will be many articles with a quote from Seneca; "Every new beginning comes from some other beginning's end." Our work is all about progress; the ability to move forward and to achieve greatness. We cannot hope to ever achieve such things if we're holding on to the things of the past. As we all wish Gary Carter a well-deserved retirement, we look forward to the next chapter in the chronicle of the DSO. Whenever we find ourselves doubting how far we can go, just remember how far we have come. Remember everything we have faced, all the actions we have won, and all the uncertainties we have overcome.



Dept. Chaplain James Fenceroy

Greetings from Sioux City. As the new chaplain, I am honored and humbled to be appointed

by Commander Kessler. I served in the US Army from 1969-1970 and again 1974-1993; spending 17 months in Vietnam. My main goal is to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with as many veterans as possible. "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all

things whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Matthew 28:19 and 20.

James Fenceroy



Sons of The American Legion Detachment Commander Mike Monserud

As we begin the 2019-2020 year, I have set some goals as a Detachment that I would like us to strive for. Membership of 100%, and a Renewal rate of 95%. We were over 100% last year and if we can maintain at least a 95% renewal rate, then with recruiting, we will reach our goals. I would also like members to complete the American Legion Basic

Training Course online. It is a great course that will help you learn more about the American Legion.

I would also like to revitalize at least 2 Squadrons this year. We will help out any Squadron that reaches out for assistance though if asked. I believe a stronger Detachment, begins with strong Squadrons, and that is where we need to place our focus. We all belong to a Squadron, and that is where our roots are, and that is where the hard work is done.

This year will become a year of a new path from the last year. I want more voices to influence the path of the Detachment. I will send out emails and ask for

ideas on changes we can make, to better improve the Detachment. Some changes are already being made, and this way I believe we can grow the Detachment, and involvement because more members will believe their opinions and ideas will help change for the better. The Sons are members because we are the voice for our veteran family members, and I want to hear those voices, and their voices to be heard.

All members are invited to the Fall meeting on October 27, 2019, at Department Headquarters in Des Moines, Iowa at 9 a.m. I hope to see you there.

Commander Mike



1st District Commander Steve Colcord

I just want to say, "hello," to the best Legionnaire's from the 1st District. It has been a great ride as the Vice Commander and planning on having another great ride as your District

Commander.

I would like to see all of you at our Fall Conference

in Swisher on October 26, 2019. It really will be a great meeting and learning experience. We had a pretty good year in membership. We didn't make our goal so we are going to work harder and GET out and knock on doors. At this time here are my goals for the up coming year.

The goals are in the area of youth / membership first one is having at least 1 finalist from each county. We have 11 counties in the First District for the Flag Essay Contest for fifth graders.

Second goal is utilizing my Vice Commander to be able to visit all posts in the district at least once.

Third goal is we aim to have at least 5 posts for the Constitutional Essay for the 7-8 graders.

And last but not least, we need to continue to work on membership having ZERO goose eggs by Department Convention.

For God and Country,
Steve Colcord



2nd District Commander Roger Norfolk

Thank you Second District for your trust in electing me as your commander. I will try to live up to that trust.

My strategic goal for the year is to provide post level training inside the district. In order

to do that, I need your help in identifying subjects you think will be helpful. Please think about this, talk it over in your post, and send me your proposed subjects by the end of October. The training may be different in each area, in align with what you identify. I think this may be of value to all of the Iowa Legion.

If you have not celebrated the centennial of the Legion – do it! If your town is 50 people, buy a box of ice cream bars, put on your Legion cap, let the

community know there is free ice cream and let them come see you still exist and tell them what you do for the community. You never know when you will open the mind of someone eligible to join us, especially with the new eligibility.

Thanks and lets all make this a good year!

Roger Norfolk
Second District – Second to None!



3rd District Commander Dan Huntley

Greetings Legionnaires,

I am Dan Huntley your 2020 District Commander. Each of your posts will be receiving a package from my office and in there a

complete bio can be found, along with information regarding the LEGION ACT, Fall Conference, membership incentives, and contact info for each post in our district.

We are closing in on the end of our fantastic Centennial Celebration. Seeing everyone remember, cherish, and learn our story has been a really neat experience for this young guy. It is important that we revisit our legacy often and learn from it. Now is the time we regroup and set course to ensure our organization's vision is carried out for the next century. The LEGION ACT is the first step at expanding our mission's work. I look forward to working together to accomplish this task with all that are willing and able.

Membership is so important and most of us don't understand why. The most common response hear is it is "about money". Yes and no is how I respond. Yes,

we have operating costs associated with doing what we do. Sure, we can identify major expenditures that could and should be corrected. Here is the reason I feel membership is paramount. Our voice. It is our voice when and where it needs to be heard. I am from the "Entitled" Veterans Era. We have never had to advocate for our rights and benefits, ever. We've always had a GI Bill, Disability, hiring preferences and health care. Membership is paramount to ensure the next generation is "entitled" also. I fear that in my lifetime Veterans will lose benefits they are owed. The day is coming when 100 years of work is reversed through law. There are roughly 18 million living Veterans in America and only 1.8 million amongst us in this fight. We need to be louder.

I am looking to make contact with Legionnaires who have knowledge, experience, and a willingness to discuss working on resolutions regarding Medical Marijuana, US Flag Code, Suicide Awareness, and Veterans Education benefits in the State of Iowa. Legionnaires in marketing, communications, event planning or public relation please reach out.

I am also seeking contact from current and former firefighters, law enforcement, educators, and coach/athletic directors who are members here in third.

If you are under the age of 40 and are reading this,

please shoot me an email and tell me your story. If you get the run around at your local post, not asked to help with things, given minimal tasks and want to do more, email me. If you have no clue what is going on or just want to understand this amazing organization, email me: daniel.philip.huntley@gmail.com.

Lastly, a few important dates coming up:

Sept. 21

Irreverent Warrior's Silkie Hike in Cedar Falls.

Register on website or Facebook. This event is very popular with GWOT Veterans and that's where you can find me that day

Oct.3-6

National Auxiliary President Homecoming
Gladbrook, Waterloo, Tama

Join us as we welcome home 3rd Districts very own Nicole Clapp as she returns as our National President.

Nov. 2nd

Fall Conference at the Iowa Veterans Home, Marshalltown

This year is going to be very unique and hands on. Join us and tour the 5th largest VA Care Facility in the Nation.

Dan Huntley



4th District Commander Dan Boberg

Finally the Legion Act has been passed and signed by President Trump. What an opportunity for us to have more members in our great organization. Don't forget to ask our

present members to renew first. There will be a lot of materials coming on people in your area that are now eligible to sign up. A lot of those will be available on www.legion.org. This should help even more for our district to get into first place and hold there until the end. This will also help our membership with the SAL

and ALA. The LEGION Act (Let Everyone Get Involved in Opportunities for National Service Act). There are 11 key things to know about the Legion Act and they can be found online or on page 6 of The Legionnaire.

Get your Consolidated Post Report started now and make it easy to send in when it comes due June 15, 2020. I would suggest for commanders to appoint someone who would be interested in the position and also someone that would take care of getting that information to the local newspaper. This is an important report and used to let congress know what TAL does for the veteran and the community which is part of our mission. This report is found on line and can be added to month after month and

then submitted on the due date.

Communication is also an important. Post Officer reports are due Sept. 15. If you do not have a computer, ask someone in your post to relay the information to you from legion.org. Even if you have the same officers, report it so that we can update records and stay in better touch with your post.

We are in more advanced age of communication with using the computer, social media and the cell phone. It is an adjustment in life that some of us are going to have to get with, so think young and stay caught up.

For God and Country,
Dan Boberg

Vets of Valor Ride

The Department of Iowa's Vets of Valor Ride was held Saturday, July 6th. The ride, which started at Zylstra Harley Davidson in Ames, consisted of registered riders. Kickstands were up at 11 AM and riders made heir way to The Marshalltown American Legion Post. Prior to the destination, riders made a

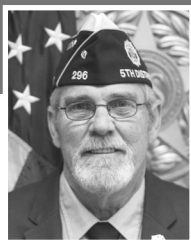
stop at the Vet's Home.

Between the registrations, raffle, donations, silent auction and golfing, the total monies raised for the event which benefits veterans in financial need was just over \$3,200.

The American Legion of Iowa would like to thank Kyle Lee, the 93.3 KIOA team and Des Moines Radio Group, Zylstra Harley Davidson in Ames, GI Jill's Bar &

Grill, Randy Kessler and the Marshalltown American Legion Post members, American Legion volunteers and all who made this ride and event possible. It is because of you The Department of Iowa can continue to assist veterans and their families during difficult times.

Vets of Valor
★ Ride ★



5th District Commander Randy Johnson

Hello Legionnaires,

Quick introduction first. I'm Randy Johnson, your newly elected District 5 Commander. I'm a 22 year USAF Veteran with a strong Legion Family, and a proud member of Post #296 in Deep River. Now lets get to it.

Department Convention has come and gone. We have newly elected Leadership in Des Moines, and the District Commanders were installed. District 5 had it's great moments. Prairie City Post #275, and Grinnell Post #53 took home a combined 4 Membership Awards, and Post #34 in Oskaloosa walked away with

the Most Outstanding Children and Youth Award in Cat III. District 5 making its way to center stage so many times was a fantastic way to end a very productive Department Convention.

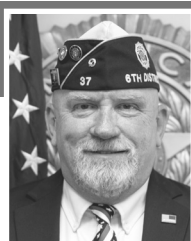
After National Convention at the end of August, the focus will turn to late summer and fall activities. Schools are starting. Get your Children and Youth Chairman fired up and get them in to the classrooms to talk Boys State, 5th Grade Essay, and Oratorical. We need to increase our participation District wide in All Children and Youth activities. It's a weakness that we can overcome with active involvement. Lets go get it. Our District Conference will be held at my home post in Deep River on October 26. More to come soon on that. I hope to see your post represented.

It's a good opportunity to see our District work,

communicate with other posts, and find out first hand the happenings around the District. Our hopes are to reach out and touch every post over the next year. By attending our conference, you'll make my job, and the individual Zone Commanders job a bit easier to make those contacts happen. If you would like a post visit, contact me at johnsonrl7696@gmail.com or one of the Zone Commanders.

I'm looking forward to the next year. There's going to be challenges, but none so big we can't overcome. It's going to take Communication, Enthusiasm, Involvement, and good'ol Hard Work from all of our Legion Family members. Let's get this done, and make 2019-2020 a Proud and Productive year.

For God and Country,
Randy Johnson



6th District Commander Pat Phillips

Greetings 6th District Legionnaires, What a GREAT start to our upcoming year. On July 30th, 2019, the President signed into law the "LEGION ACT", which allows ALL

veterans that have served since December 7th, 1941 to become welcome members to our great organization! Reach out to those veterans that you know that were unable to join previously and let them know "Why I Belong" and sign them up.

Your 6th District Officers have hit the ground running as soon as the Department Convention came to a close. We are highlighting membership, but in a new and hopefully more effective manner. We are scheduling meetings with all 50 Posts in the District to be completed before the end of the year. We will make ourselves available for any meeting or event that you wish us to attend. Our message is simple..."Leave No One Behind".

Historically, our Legion-wide membership slide over the years has been primarily due to members leaving out the back door after 1 or 2 years of membership. We have to retain these members, let them know that we care and need them to help us continue to serve

veterans in need. These non-renewal lists are available on www.MyLegion.org. Look up these individuals, make a call, knock on a few doors and you will be pleasantly surprised.

Lastly, to help you keep current on the events of posts within our Great 6th District, we have a Facebook page, "6th District American Legion Family of Iowa". Take a look, join, and see the great things happening in our district. You can also post to this page any event you have coming up in your post to get the widest spread of information.

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY,
Doc Phillips



7th District Commander Brett Martin

Greetings fellow Pioneers,

I am excited and honored to be your 7th District Commander and in attempt to make our communication better, I have established a newsletter which will be published

monthly and is currently sent to your Post Commander and Adjutant via email. If you would like to have this newsletter to come directly to you, please email me your email address and I will add you to the distribution list. Soon our new 7th District website will be online: www.ialegion7district.org. Please check it out.

You are invited to the 7th District Fall Conference which will be held on Saturday, 14 September in

Atlantic; Iowa. Please make plans to attend the conference. I want to hear your voice and ideas.

Thank you all for what you do for our communities and our veterans. Please take care of each other and I hope to see you soon.

For God and Country,
Brett Martin



8th District Commander Tom Ryan

Happy New Year! You could say that...Seeing how we just started a new fiscal year for the Department of Iowa, July 1st through June 30th, 2020.

At the annual state conference held July 18th-21st, we heard the final remarks of outgoing Department Commander J. Scott Moline (we doubt that is the last we hear of him) as he installed James Kessler as the new Department Commander. We wish Commander James a prosperous year as he undertakes his new position.

We say to Past District 8 Commander Carl Anderson a job well done for getting the Iowa Legionnaires

involved in RAGBRAI. He spent a great deal of time and effort with the various sponsors and the Board of RAGBRAI to have the Legion constituency recognized. Carl also visited many posts in our district to assist any whom required help. Thank you Carl for all you have done for our district the past year.

The Executive Board of District 8 has been given a challenge this year to reel in at least 15% of those individuals whom are delinquent and have let their dues lapse. If you are delinquent in past dues, no problem. Just get in touch with the Post Adjutant and that person will get you squared away, thanks.

As incoming District Commander I will pick up where Carl left off and visit posts through the area. Myself and the Vice Commanders will be working on the 729s, assist posts in getting new members, and revitalize posts. All the posts should reach out to all vets in our community to pass information, not only

the benefits they may be missing out on, but also the LEGION Act recently into law. There are many programs offered by the Legion, I'm asking that if you can't do all of them, pick and choose those you like and do it.

Your next District Conference is Sunday, Sept. 29th at the Livermore Post: 308 4th Ave beginning at 8AM. Hospitality will be at the AmericanInn: 307 13th St. N., Humboldt on Saturday, Sept. 28th from 5PM-10PM. Rooms have been blocked at the AmericanInn call 515-890-5000 for reservations if you wish to spend the night.

I'm reminded of a sentence in the Credo of the Junior Chamber of Commerce: "and service to Humanity is the best work of life."

For God and Country,
Tom Ryan



9th District Commander Cliff Ripke

My name is Cliff Ripke. As the newly elected Commander of the 9th District, I thought you should know a little bit about me. I served in the United States Air Force from 1965

through 1968 as a Communications Center Specialist (teletype operator). After basic training at Lackland AFB in San Antonio, TX, I was sent to March AFB near

Riverside, CA. From there I was sent to Tin City AFS, AK. And was honorably discharged in August of 1968.

I have just completed 7 years as Commander of Arthur W. Kirchoff Post #288 of Hartley. I was Vice Commander of this post prior to that.

I recently attended the 101st Convention of the Department of Iowa. If you missed it, you missed a very interesting convention. The highlight for me was the table displays of some 35 posts across Iowa. These displays were part of the Department of Iowa Centennial Celebration. They varied from simple to more elaborate. The idea was for each display to give

some information as to whom their post was named after and something unique about their post. Thanks to 7 posts from District 9 that participated. A special thanks to Roger Norfolk of District 2 for his leadership in the Department of Iowa Centennial Celebration.

The 9th District Fall Conference is coming up on November 2nd. Mark your calendars and hope to see many of you there. Come for the day or even part of the day. For

God and Country,
Cliff Ripke

Things You Should Know About The LEGION Act

By The American Legion

Here are answers to 11 key questions about the new law and what it means for The American Legion:

Question: How does this change the eligibility requirements for The American Legion?

Answer: The only change is that Congress has reduced the number of eligibility periods from seven to two. They are April 6, 1917, to Nov. 11, 1918, and Dec. 7, 1941, and continuing. No other restrictions are changed.

Question: What's the impact on veterans who previously were not eligible for American Legion membership?

Answer: Veterans who were honorably discharged but whose service did not fall into the previous defined war eras may now join The American Legion immediately. To do so, eligible members may sign up at www.ialegion.org/join.

Question: I am among the veterans who were not allowed to join previously, so why do you want me now?

Answer: The American Legion's founding fathers believed, "a veteran is a veteran," an axiom that has held true throughout the organization's more than century of service. Some veterans were ineligible to join because of the war eras that were defined by Congress. The recent bill passage and president's signature changed that.

Question: So how does this differentiate The American Legion from AMVETS?

Answer: The American Legion's eligibility criteria states that veterans must have served during "wartime." When Congress decides the U.S. is no longer in a state of war, the Legion's membership eligibility period will close, while AMVETS will still be open to those who served.

Question: How does this affect the Sons of The American Legion (SAL)?

Answer: The Sons' eligibility criteria will change along with that of The American Legion. Any son or grandson of a living American Legion member will be able to join the SAL program. (Sons and grandsons of deceased veterans are also eligible.) For example, a son of a veteran who served between 1985 and 1988 previously would not have been eligible. With the extension of the war period, that veteran would immediately be eligible for The American Legion and the son would be

able to join the SAL.

Question: How does this affect the eligibility for the American Legion Auxiliary?

Answer: This follows the same concept as the SAL, as noted previously. Membership in the American Legion Auxiliary is currently open to grandmothers, mothers, sisters, wives, and adopted female descendants of eligible veterans.

Question: How does this affect membership for departments, districts and posts?

Answer: This change opens up American Legion membership to thousands more veterans who likely live in your communities. They may become members immediately.

Question: The current membership applications don't address the eligibility change. How do we process those members?

Answer: New membership materials will be developed and provided as quickly as possible. Until then, it is recommended that prospective members from a previously undocumented war era write "Other Conflicts" in the eligibility date section and send it in to their department with the appropriate dues.

Question: What steps should departments, districts and posts focus on?

Answer: A good first step would be to review all recruiting materials to look for eligibility dates. Information on electronic media (websites, social media channels, etc.) should be changed immediately. It is up to departments to decide on the best way to handle printed materials, while updated ones are being produced.

Question: How does this change the Paid Up For Life program?

Answer: There are no changes to the PUFL program, though the newly eligible members would be able to become PUFLs. To learn more about the program, visit <https://www.legion.org/PUFL>.

Question: Who can I contact for more information about this change as it applies to membership and recruiting?

Answer: Contact the national Membership Division. Visit this web page to find the representative in your state. <https://www.legion.org/membership/contactus>

Source: <https://www.legion.org/membership/246558/11-things-you-need-know-about-legion-act>

Blood Donation

The Blood Donation program was established as early as 1942 in the American Legion. A blood drive was held at Department Convention in July and 22 donations were received! A resolution was passed at that same convention to enter into a memorandum of understanding with LifeServe Blood Center to help us promote and expand our blood donation program in the state of Iowa. LifeServe provides blood products to over 120 hospitals and medical centers in Iowa, Nebraska, and South Dakota including the Des Moines VA. Parts of eastern Iowa is covered by the Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center who provides blood to the Iowa City VA and the University of Iowa hospitals and clinics.

Blood drives are easy to coordinate and run, they take minimal volunteers, and the donation center provides all the equipment and staff. Many Iowa posts hold several blood drives a year, lets expand that to every county!

Consider holding blood drives around American Legion Day, Veterans Day, or the American Legion birthday. Report all those donations on your CPR at the end of the year, getting those numbers is easy. Your local blood center coordinator can help you with that or keep track yourself at donation events – all pints count, not just those donated by Legionnaires! The departments that have the highest turnout for Legionnaires and post participation are honored at national convention. Let's make sure this year Iowa is honored for our efforts!

No matter which blood center you use, or where you give blood, giving is what is important. Each donation can save up to three lives, one of those might be yours one day!

Jennifer Monserud
Community Service Chair



Phishing Phone Scam

Members have indicated they were called by someone claiming to represent The American Legion — specifically National Adjutant Wheeler — requesting a checking account number so they could make a donation to The American Legion. Anyone making such a call is operating a scam. The American Legion National Headquarters has not and will never call members requesting this type of information. Please be aware and notify members in your post.

**Detachment Commander
Mike Monserud's Homecoming
Sept. 14 @ Ames American Legion Post
225 Main St. from 1:30PM-4PM
There will be a blood drive from 8AM-12PM
Stay and watch the Iowa vs. Iowa State
Football game afterwards**



E-Newsletter: Subscribe Today
www.ialegion.org/signup

THE AMERICAN LEGION OF IOWA FOUNDATION

2019 Special Edition

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

PAGE 7



Why Does the American Legion of Iowa Foundation Exist?

That question comes up from time to time, especially from those members that are new to The American Legion or are just beginning to explore The American Legion and its programs outside their post. Up until now, we have not really had a good answer for that question that didn't require a long explanation. At a special meeting of the Foundation Board of Directors in June, the following mission statement was written. It answers that question.

"The American Legion of Iowa Foundation exists to support The American Legion Department of Iowa and to promote the programs of The American Legion under the four pillars; Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism and Children and Youth, by providing financial support to organizations serving in those areas."

A quick read of that statement may not seem to shed any more light on the reason for the Foundation but first you will see that the Foundation exists to support The American Legion and promote the programs of The American Legion. More than three quarters of the statement is just that; support for The American Legion and our four pillars.

It is the last ten words of the statement that determine how the Foundation supports the principles of The American Legion; "by providing financial support to organizations serving in those area". That is no more than a restatement of something that many of our Posts already do, provide financial support to

organizations serving their local community. The difference here is that the Foundation provides financial support to organizations operating programs that serve more than just one community or group through work that comes under one of our four pillars.

Does all the money that the Foundation grants go to outside groups? That answer is NO. The Foundation provides matching grants to The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary for scholarships awarded at each of the youth programs except for the Most Outstanding Citizen at Boys State and Girls State. Those two \$5,000 scholarships come entirely from Foundation funds. This year almost \$25,000 went for direct support to American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary programs.

Why isn't all the money used for direct support of Legion family programs? Because we know, as do the Legionnaires in our posts, that some needs are too big to be met by us alone. In those cases, we need to support those groups better equipped to meet those needs. In any cases, the best way for us to support that work is financially through grants.

Of course, all these organizations must complete a grant request detailing how they will use the money if the request is granted. The Board works hard evaluating those requests and deciding which will be accepted. The first criteria is always, "Does this request fall within the shadow of one of the four pillars?"

In short, think of the Foundation as the statewide version of your local Legion family's community service program and the donations that your Post, Unit and Squadron make. We depend on your generosity to be able to fill that role. The generosity of Legion family members has built a fund of \$2,000,000 which supplies the income for grants. We hope that generosity will continue. There are many unmet needs out there in Iowa. The Foundation exists to help fill those needs whether through American Legion family programs or by helping organizations that share our beliefs.

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

American Legion of Iowa Foundation
720 Lyon Street
Des Moines, IA 50309
(800) 365-8387
foundation@ialegion.org

About The American Legion of Iowa Foundation

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

Since 1979, over \$1.4 million has been contributed in support of veterans' assistance, educational programs, patriotic endeavors and children and youth programs.

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

The Foundation's service is an unseen battle against poverty, degenerative youth,

complacency and lack of patriotism. One way to fight is through meaningful philanthropy – to assist those who have not been fortunate as others. Your gift to the Foundation provides you with a role in the building the future – a role of which you can be proud.

We want to continue to better human life through scholarships, help to veterans, and other humanitarian causes. To do this, we need to increase the endowment that provides cash awards.

Every year we receive more requests from such organizations as colleges, veterans hospitals, and medical research groups. To help fund these deserving causes we want to continually increase the earning power of the Foundation by increasing the endowment.

Grant application procedures can be found on the website: www.ialegion.org/iafoundation. If you have further questions, please email foundation@ialegion.org or call 800-365-8387.

Foundation Board Members

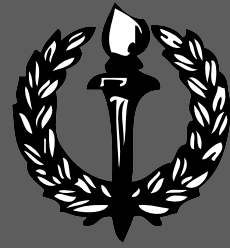
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Melvin Goslar, 8th District
Lyle Schaffer, 9th District



www.ialegion.org/iafoundation



THE AMERICAN LEGION OF IOWA FOUNDATION



2019 Foundation Grants Awarded

American Legion

- \$500.00 American Legion Boys State Baker Scholarship
- \$1,500.00 American Legion Baseball
- \$2,250.00 American Legion Boy Scouts
- \$500.00 American Legion Boys State Governor
- \$5,000.00 American Legion Boys State Outstanding Citizen
- \$750.00 American Legion Boys State-Boys Nation
- \$500.00 American Legion Children & Youth
- \$2,250.00 American Legion Jr. Shooting Sports
- \$2,250.00 American Legion Oratorical

American Legion Auxiliary

- \$1,500.00 American Legion Auxiliary Gift Shop
- \$250.00 American Legion Auxiliary-Dept. Jr President
- \$750.00 American Legion Auxiliary-Girls Nation
- \$5,000.00 American Legion Auxiliary-Girls State Citizen
- \$500.00 American Legion Auxiliary-Girls State Governor
- \$2,500.00 American Legion Auxiliary-Jr Camp

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation

- \$2,000.00 Des Moines Homeless Veterans Stand Down
- \$1,000.00 Iowa Legal Aid
- \$2,000.00 Iowa Military Veterans Band
- \$2,000.00 Iowa Veterans Home
- \$1,000.00 Quad Cities Veteran Outreach Center
- \$2,000.00 Scholar - Clinton Community College
- \$2,000.00 Scholar - DMACC Foundation
- \$2,000.00 Scholar - Hawkeye Community College
- \$2,000.00 Scholar - Iowa Lakes Community College
- \$2,000.00 Scholar - Luther College
- \$2,000.00 Scholar - Mount Mercy University
- \$2,000.00 Scholar - Muscatine Community College
- \$1,000.00 Scholar - Northeast Iowa Community College
- \$2,000.00 Scholar - Northwest Iowa Community College
- \$2,000.00 Scholar - Scott Community College
- \$2,000.00 Scholar - St Ambrose University
- \$2,000.00 Scholar - University of Dubuque Veterans Center
- \$2,000.00 Scholar - University of Northern Iowa Foundation
- \$2,000.00 Scholar - Upper Iowa University
- \$2,000.00 Scholar - Wartburg College
- \$2,000.00 Simpson College
- \$1,000.00 VA-Friends of the Terrain Therapy Garden Project
- \$300.00 VA-Iowa City VA Health Care System Castaways Deer Hunt
- \$800.00 VA-Iowa City VA Health Care System Castaways Fishing
- \$350.00 VA-Iowa City VA Health Care System Castaways Pheasant Hunt

- \$1,000.00 VA-Iowa City VA Health Care System Tee Tournament

Americanism, Children & Youth

- \$975.00 Big Brothers Big Sisters Heart of Iowa
- \$1,000.00 Big Brothers Big Sisters of CR & East Central Iowa, Inc.
- \$600.00 Big Brothers Big Sisters of Grinnell
- \$1,000.00 BSA Mid-Iowa Council
- \$2,500.00 Camp Courageous
- \$1,500.00 Child Serve Foundation
- \$1,800.00 Essex Child Center Inc.
- \$2,000.00 Inspiration Hills Camp and Retreat Center
- \$1,500.00 Iowa Odyssey of the Mind
- \$500.00 JROTC-Abraham Lincoln High School
- \$500.00 JROTC-Central Iowa Division of the U S Naval Sea Cadet Corps
- \$500.00 JROTC-Davenport Central High School Army JROTC
- \$500.00 JROTC-Davenport North High School MCJROTC
- \$500.00 JROTC-DM North High School MCJROTC
- \$500.00 JROTC-Ottumwa High School JROTC

Community Service

- \$1,000.00 American Lung Association
- \$800.00 Area Residential Care
- \$1,000.00 Friends of Rock Creek State Park
- \$500.00 Griswold Public Library
- \$1,250.00 H.W. Grout Trust/Grout Museum District
- \$1,175.00 Holly Cross/NBV Fire Department
- \$1,200.00 Hope Haven
- \$500.00 Iowa Veterans' Perspective Charitable Foundation
- \$500.00 IRIS
- \$600.00 Life Skills Training Center, Inc
- \$650.00 Link Associates
- \$1,000.00 Mills County Public Health
- \$1,500.00 Mosaic
- \$1,400.00 New Hope Village
- \$1,000.00 NW Iowa Mental Health Center DBA Seasons Center
- \$1,200.00 One Vision
- \$1,000.00 RSVP of Jasper County
- \$550.00 Shelby County Historical Society & Museum
- \$1,500.00 The Food Bank of Iowa

TOTAL AWARDED:
\$102,650.00



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

DEPARTMENT OF IOWA

Auxiliary Communique

SERVING VETERANS, THEIR FAMILIES AND THEIR COMMUNITIES



PAGE 9

New President Installed: Kelly Elliott



Hello everyone! Our exciting new year has begun. Congratulations to our new Department Commander Jim Kesler and our new Sons of the American Legion Detachment Commander Mike Monserud. I am looking forward to serving with you both this year.

I have already started with going to the Rodeo in Sidney IA with Past President Rosie Hall. What a wonderful time I had. Everyone should experience the Rodeo. I am looking forward to our Fall Conferences, Nicole's Home Coming and our Auxiliary 100th Birthday on November 10th. I hope our units have some celebrations planned this year for our centennial. Make sure you let us know what you are doing to celebrate our 100 years. We would like to share your stories in the communique and our new e newsletter. If you would like to have me visit your units or attend your meetings or celebrations make sure to send me an official President's Visit form found on our website. I am looking forward to the visits and meeting more of our members. Below I have included my installation speech.

First, I would like to say Thank you, to everyone that has been a part of installation this morning. Ann Crawford for doing a great job this morning and for making my Beautiful Banner. Linda Sue Mullen for the beautiful prayer. Sgt at Arms Darla Davidson and Asst Sgt at Arms Michele Long. My installation pages Veronica Daniel and JoAnn Klein.

Good Morning. I am so excited to be here today and to be starting what I hope will be a year of Celebrations. We have a lot to Celebrate this year, Nicole being our new National President, the Auxiliary's 100th Birthday Nov 10th, Girls State's 75th session, Our Centennial Gala and Junior Camp will hold the 35th year of camp. WOW!!! I hope you all are ready for this exciting year. I am looking forward to working with the Department Commander, Department SAL detachment Commander Mike Monserud and the Junior Auxiliary President. The Legion is voting today on their new commander and we will have the Junior Convention at the end of camp where the juniors will elect their new President.

My theme this year is 100 years of Service Not Self. I chose this part of our mission statement because it signifies why I am a proud member of this great organization. Our mission statement states In the spirit of Service, Not Self, the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion and to honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad. For God and Country, we advocate for veterans, educate our citizens, mentor youth, and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace and security.

I hope that all members read this often. It is a great reminder of what we are all here for, to serve our Veterans, their families and our communities. I am proud to be a part of the American Legion Family. I am proud of my dad who served in the Army and made me eligible to be a part of this family. I wish he could be here today to be a part of this celebration. He always told me how proud he was of the work I was doing with the Auxiliary. He knew somehow that I would be here today as your new Department President. He always told me that. I dedicate this year to him. I know he is here today and is smiling down on me. I have his legion cap up here with me and will carry it with me this year.

My symbol is the Angel. We have Angels here among us and those that have gone before us. Angels are a symbol of peace and love. Something that our members excel at. We need to continue to show that to each other and our Veterans.

I would like to Thank some very special people in my life. My mentor Martha Travis, I have learned so much from you. You got me started on this journey in the Auxiliary and have continued to support me through this journey. You are my Auxiliary mom, my friend and a great example of what a mentor should be. Thank You! Lillian McGivern you have been a great mentor and supporter. You are and inspiration to me. Thank you for showing me how to be a good leader and mentor. Sherri McLaughlin, her love for this organization was amazing. Her love for the Girls State program along with Wendy Riggle, inspired me. Because of them I have had some of the best moments of my life being a Girls State counselor. To my unit in Shellsburg for all your support. You are the best! My ladies from Benton County. You are a busy group of ladies and I am proud to be a part of the Benton County Auxiliary. The Third District. You have all taught me so much and have also been wonderful Mentors to me. Would all members of my Unit, Benton County and the 3rd District please stand to be recognized?

Now the Past Department Presidents, thank you for supporting me and encouraging me. You have taught me so much and helped me get ready for this year. It has meant the

world to me. Mary and Michele, you have been such wonderful friends to me. Girls State and conventions would not be the same without you both. And to all my Legion family, I so grateful to be a part of this awesome family. You have the biggest hearts and amaze me every day with your kindness and your desire to help others.

Now for my family, thank you for understanding my love for this organization. For understanding when I can't be there because I am at a meeting or function for our Veterans. You are always telling me how proud you are of me. I love you all so very much and I appreciate you all more than you will ever know.

Can the Sgt of Arms and her Assistant please escort my family to the stage?

Introduce the family and let them speak.

Can the Sgt of Arms and her assistant please escort my family back to their seats?

My projects this year are Junior Camp, Girls State and the VA facilities. For Junior Camp I ask that you send donation to support the program and keep it going well into the future. For Girls State a new laptop and printer. At the VA facilities I will be choosing a special project to help our Veteran's stay be a little more enjoyable and comfortable. I am working with our Representatives at these facilities on this project.

I am sure you all noticed the handouts and items on your chairs when you came in. My last project this year is to bring more awareness to Suicide prevention with our Veterans. I have a lifelong friend whose son took his own life and he was serving with the Iowa National Guard. I also have a cousin who was serving in the Army when she committed suicide. It is a subject that is hard for most to understand and talk about, but we must get help for those service members. We need to start recognizing some of the symptoms and get them to someone that can help them. The information you have has a phone number they can call for help. The VA have also provided some gun locks. If you would like one, please let me know. A national VA report shows the total is 20.6 suicides every day. Of those, 16.8 were veterans and 3.8 were active duty service members, guardsmen and reservists. That amounts to 6,132 veterans and 1,387 service members who died by suicide in one year. We can help get the information out there and raise awareness.

When I was at National last year, I heard Matt Williams sing.

After returning from his third and final deployment in 2010 as a Staff Sergeant in the US Army, Matt Williams discovered another battle waiting for him here at home. PTSD and depression loomed very near to Matt, as he had been wounded - and two of his best friends were killed - by an IED attack during his last tour in Afghanistan. Things only seemed to intensify when Matt's father passed just three weeks after he arrived back home in Alabama. Matt desperately sought an outlet where he could direct his emotion, and he turned back to his roots: MUSIC. He said,

"My military service has influenced my music more than words can even express. My music is more, instead of trying to be fun all the time, my music is more expressive of what really happened in my life."

"So, I wrote a song and it spoke about my experiences in Iraq and Afghanistan," he said, referring to "Carry On."

"What it basically says is the physical body of a veteran, of a soldier when they've been killed in action — that's gone. But the memory of them will always be there. Their legacy will always be there."

"It's not about me. It's about carrying on the memory of those who sacrificed to give us the freedoms that we have today," he said.

The proceeds from the sales of "Carry On" are going to benefit the PBS Veterans Engagement Program. I have chosen Carry On as one of my songs this year.

Membership is important to keep our organization strong well into the future. Our membership team this year is Judy Ring, Jammie Phillips and Alida Kolthoff. Membership Team are you ready?



In closing I would like to say Thank you for having confidence in me. I will do my best to represent the Auxiliary with a positive and uplifting attitude this year. Keep that Service not Self attitude as we go into this 100th year. Let's have fun this year and show our support to Nicole for a successful year also. We are very proud of you Nicole and we can't wait to hear all about your adventures this year.

Thank you and God Bless our Veterans.

Mary, I will now return the gavel so you can close your Department Convention. It has been wonderful serving with you this year. You have been an outstanding example this year for me. Thank you!

Chaplain Corner

I thought this Bible verse was so appropriate as we start a new year for our American Legion Auxiliary.

Hebrews 13:8 - Jesus Christ is the exactly the same in the past, in the present, and in the future.

100 Years of Service Not Self - In 1919 when the American Legion Auxiliary was organized to serve Veterans, it was Jesus Christ guiding and teaching the members how to pray and serve our Veterans, our military and their families. As it was then, it is today; God blesses us, walks with us and guides us. God rejoices when the American Legion Auxiliary does his work here on earth. I wonder if those members would have ever dreamt that 100 years later, there would be over 1 million members from all walks of life who are devoted members honoring those who have served our Country. Our organization has changed over the years but our ideals and principles have remained steadfast in serving God and our Country. Even with our organization changing, you and I change, God never does. God loves us and will never leave our side. We are strong and safe because God was there these last 100 years of service not self. When our members open up their hearts to God's grace and continuing listening to God's will, our great organization will continue to serve for another 100 years.

1 Peter 4:10 - Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.

Every good thing we have is ours only by God's grace and intended to be used for His purpose. To fail to use God's gifts to us to serve each other is to fail to be a good steward. Wisely using everything we have to serve each other is part of fulfilling our purpose as God's people.

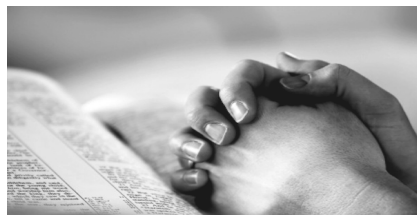
What spiritual gift did God bestow upon you: wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord?

Veterans risked their lives to defend our Country; ask yourself what you can do to serve God and our Country. Will you be a good steward when you see someone struggling? So many Veterans, military, their families and our neighbors in our communities need our prayers, compassion and empathy. They need to know they are not alone - American Legion Auxiliary stands beside them and that God will always be with them, now and forever.

I pray you will be a good steward. I leave you with this thought: "I am only one, but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something. And because I cannot do everything I will not refuse to do the something that I can do."

- Edward Everett Hale

Grace, Peace and Mercy, Mary Mooberry, Department Chaplain



Public Relations

The American Legion Auxiliary will turn 100 on Nov.10, 2019. Our milestone celebration comes a few months after The American Legion celebrated its centennial in March. The ALA's 100th anniversary is a time not only to celebrate the achievements of the last century, but also to look ahead to our next century, whether you're an individual member or a unit, district/county, or department. A new generation of veterans, servicemembers, and their families will depend on the American Legion Auxiliary.

How do you plan to celebrate this milestone of the American Legion Auxiliary? Will you be hosting birthday celebrations or other events? What is your method of promotion? Do you need fresh ideas on how to post on social media or how to write a news release for the paper, radio, or TV? For great examples, go to the national website and download the Centennial Tool Kit.

I have a challenge for all units this year. Include in your mid-year report, due to me before Dec. 15, a brand-new method of promoting your events.

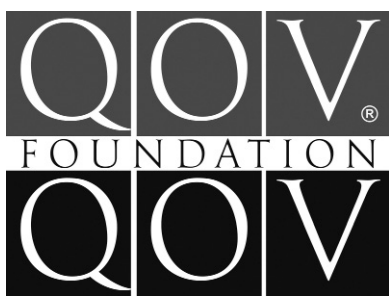
How did you connect with the public to promote our brand in a positive manner? Send me your link to your Facebook page. Did you hold an event that you had never hosted before? Send me pictures, newspaper releases, and the number of people that attended. Have you created a website? Did you host any social get-togethers?

Public Relations is a way of telling a story and promoting who we are by communicating and connecting with the public in a positive manner. I will be announcing at mid-winter, the units who tried something new from years past. If you need assistance in finding a new way of promotion, please do not hesitate to contact me at jwestove@msn.com. I would be happy to assist you with a news release, setting up a Facebook page, or just brainstorming ideas with you. Taking the time to share a story about a positive impact you or your unit has had on our mission is worth doing.

Let's honor all our Veterans and their families by informing our communities about our 100 years of "Service, not Self" and how we can promote our organization for the next 100 years.

Jackie Westover Chairman

FALL DISTRICT CONFERENCE INFORMATION ON DEPT. WEBSITE: WWW.IOWAALA.ORG



American Legion Family Quilts of Valor Quilt Retreat and Award Ceremony January 17-19, 2020 The Quilted Steeple 2605 90th Avenue, Lone Rock, IA

Join us for a weekend of fun, fellowship and food, service to veterans, great food, and a stitchin' good time. Oh, and food. Lots of great food and good snacks! You will love the food.

The Quilt of Valor Quilt Retreat will be held at The Quilted Steeple near Lone Rock, Iowa - a beautifully restored former church and parsonage. Learn about it at www.quiltedsteeple.com. Friday noon to Sunday noon we will be surrounded by the peace and tranquility of rural Iowa.

The fee for the retreat is \$150 which includes your spacious sewing area, lodging with five meals (Friday evening to Sunday morning) and beverages. There is an extra refrigerator in the retreat center for guests who want to bring other beverages, snacks or other food. Day retreats for those living close by would be \$65 for the weekend and will include your spacious sewing area, the Friday night meal, lunch and dinner on Sat. If you can only come for the day, the cost is \$40.

You need to bring your sewing machine, personal tools, favorite patterns and your own fabric if you wish. Cutting tables, pressing tables, irons, and individual lighting at the tables is provided. Some fabric and patterns will be available due to the generosity of the American Legion Auxiliary members or you can bring your own.

Not a quilter? No problem. If you can stitch a straight line we will get you started quilting! Send in your reservation today - spots will fill up quickly. Deadline to register is December 15, 2019

Quilts of Valor Registration Form - January 17-19, 2020



Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

_____ \$150/weekend _____ \$65/weekend-no lodging _____ \$40/ one day

Comments: (Diet restrictions, mobility issues) _____

Send Registration form and fee to: QOV Retreat, American Legion Auxiliary, 720 Lyon Street, Des Moines, IA 50309.

Questions? Contact Ann Rehbein - amrehbein@msn.com. Registration deadline is 12/15/19. No refunds issued after 12/15/19.

**If Nicole Clapp is elected American Legion Auxiliary National President,
The Department of Iowa Legion Family invites you to Homecoming in America's Heartland.**

National President Nicole Clapp's love of that "pretty red flower" started her lifelong journey to become the American Legion Auxiliary's Centennial National President.

Her ongoing dedication to serve military, veterans and their families will inspire her to lead the American Legion Auxiliary into the next Century of Service.



*The Department of Iowa American Legion Family requests the pleasure of your company
Honoring
Nicole Clapp
American Legion Auxiliary
National President
2019-2020*

*October 3-5, 2019
Meskwaki Hotel and Casino
1504 305th Street
Tama, Iowa 52339
800-728-4263*



Deadline for all reservations is September 25, 2019

Room Reservations may be made at:	THURSDAY EVENING, PILGRIM HEIGHTS	_____	@ \$25.00 each	Total _____
MESKWAKI HOTEL	Friday, all day, Waterloo tours and dinner	_____	@ \$50.00 each	Total _____
1504 305th Street	Saturday, Gladbrook tour and lunch	_____	@ \$25.00 each	Total _____
Tama IA 52339	Saturday Banquet, Meskwaki ballroom	_____	@ \$50.00 each	Total _____
800-728-4263 Code 2578	Please select your entrée: # _____ Prime Rib, # _____ Chicken Breast Supreme	_____		Total _____
	# _____ Pasta Primavera Special dietary meal _____ (specify)	_____		Total _____

Note: Scooter rentals may be made through Meskwaki Hotel
Mail completed form and check to:

ALA NP Homecoming, c/o Bev Cople, 1400 280th St, Salix, Iowa 51052

Make checks payable to Iowa American Legion Auxiliary (Memo: Homecoming)

2019-2020 Department Executive Committee

Back row Left to right: Kathy Wilkerson, Marge Ernst, Pat Williams, Helen Pinter, Rosemary Lancaster, Susan Thompson, Rose Schoening, Dee Schrodt, Michelle Copple
Front row Left to right: Sharon Anderson, LaDonna Runner, Mary Mooberry, Lorna Golson, Kelly Elliott, Mary Sebben, Crystal Wright, Ann Crawford, Tooter Baker, Vickie Klinkhammer, Diana Shadduck



Thank you, American Legion Auxiliary Foundation!

Did you know the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation can be utilized as a conduit to receive grants that require a 501 (c) 3 designation as the recipient? Last year I utilized my employers volunteer program that allows for every 20 hours of volunteer time a \$250 grant can be applied for. Teams can apply for a grant up to \$5000 and as an individual two \$250 grants can be awarded annually. My participation on the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival Committee and then volunteering the entire week, I was able to apply for a team grant of \$3000. Other Auxiliary volunteer hours were used for an individual \$250 grant. Once processed, I then submitted the subgrant application to the ALA Foundation and the Department of Iowa American Legion Auxiliary received \$3250 in recognition of my volunteer hours. Thank you to the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation for your subgrant process that allowed me to take advantage of my employer's volunteer program!

Kathy Wilkerson
VA&R Chair

VA&R

The Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation program promotes our mission to enhance the lives of U.S. veterans, military, and their families.

Coming home for a veteran can be a change that is hard for them and their families. We can help them. As Iowa ALA Members there is a multitude of things that are available for you to help with. Volunteer to serve the veterans and their families at VA health care facilities through the Veteran Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS) and ask others to join. Record your hours through the volunteer hour tracking system, which is different than tracking outside the system to earn service bars (See VA&R – Service to Veterans). The hours the volunteers log at the hospitals and CBOCs are recognized by logging in at the hospitals.

You can: -Give a helping hand to the

Legion's homeless veteran.

Participate in the VA Project CHALLENGE organized by the VA health care system. Volunteer at homeless veterans' stand downs.

Contact homeless veteran emergency shelters; transitional housing projects and permanent housing projects in your community and identify the organization's volunteer and in-kind contribution needs; including: Meal preparation and serving; Clothes collection and distribution, Assembly and delivery of hygiene kits, buddy baskets; Purchasing or securing household items or furniture.

Monetary Donations: They should always be sent to Department Office earmarked for the facility of your choice. Send a letter to that facility to tell them of your donation and what you want it used for.

Judy Neal, VA&R
Joyce Elliott, Service to Veterans

sure that students in your area know of the availability of the ALA scholarships.

Helping in the classroom is always needed so if you find yourself with extra time you can always volunteer in the classroom or offer to organize a Veterans Day program or Veterans in the Classroom program.

More ideas and helpful hints about education are available on the Department website at www.iowaala.org and the national website at www.alaforveterans.org

If you or your unit does ANYTHING to support education, PLEASE send your reports to me by December 1 for Mid-Year reporting and May 1 for Year-end reporting. I need to report to national and I can't do that if you don't tell me all the great things you are doing! Don't hesitate to call or email me if you need anything or have questions.

Kim Dixon
Chair

Education

Education is a very important and integral part of society. Today's students are the leaders of tomorrow. Those who choose to educate our children are a special breed. Without them where would education be? American Education Week is November 18-22, 2019. Please try to remember teachers and all school personnel during this time. Teacher Appreciation week is May 3-9 of 2020 to focus on teachers specifically.

We can all help out students and teachers by participating in the give 10 to Education program. Donating to ALA scholarship funds on a local, state, and national level is also another way to show support of education. If your unit doesn't already give a scholarship or two, now is a great time to organize a scholarship program in your unit. Make

Past Presidents Parley

Does your Unit, County, or District have a Past Presidents Parley also known as PPP? If so, are you reporting what you do to Department? For example: Our Unit PPP meets every month that has a 5th Wednesday in it. This means we meet 1-3 times a year, it varies from year to year. We meet for dinner at a restaurant, or go to a members home for a potluck. Afterwards we have a short meeting, go over our Units Governing Documents, then we make tray favors for a nursing home in our area for whatever holiday is fast approaching. Simple enough, RIGHT! Well it does not sound like it as very few reports were written and submitted last year. Couldn't tell National much about what we are doing! Also, are you nominating a Woman of the Year from your Unit that hasn't gone higher than a Unit President? Are you finding a Service Woman of the Year which can be one woman from all five branches? Questions on this? Please go to the National Website at ALAforVeterans.org and click on the pages for PPP

information and awards. You will find the answers to your questions. I expect one Woman of the Year name from each District this year, so 9 Nominees for me to choose from to, then I will send one name on to National. Make sure you have her name sent in to your District President two weeks prior to your Spring District Conference so your District President can get her winner to me by April 30, 2020. Also observe the deadline for Service Woman of the Year by April 15, 2020 to your District President so she can forward on to me by April 30, 2020. Not only should we be gathering as Past Presidents, we should be mentoring our new leaders. Please utilize your experience and knowledge for training and encouraging present and future leaders. This can be added to your report to me at Mid Year, due by December 15, 2019 and Year End, April 30, 2020 as to how you have been encouraging and mentoring those new leaders in your Unit, County, and District. Thank you in advance for your support of the PPP's

Vickie Klinkhammer
Chairman

Membership

Greeting from your American Legion Auxiliary Department of Iowa Membership Team!

This year is going to be an exciting year for membership! We are focusing on the positive and we are confident that the Department of Iowa will work together and make Department President Kelly and National President Nicole proud!

You may have noticed; the Unit goals have changed, and the new goals are VERY attainable. Your goals were distributed to District Presidents at the Programs Workshop. If you have not received your membership goals, contact your District President or the Department Membership Team. We are looking forward to seeing every Unit in Iowa at well above 100%.

There are many changes coming down the pipeline. Effective with the signing of the Legion Act by President Trump your opportunity to recruit new members has expanded. This is effective immediately!! So, ladies, get out there and recruit those newly

eligible individuals into the American Legion Family.

If you have not already, look at the 2019/2020 Program Supplement at <https://www.alaforveterans.org/>. Under the Members tab select Programs Action Plan. Membership is pages 65 – 80. Pay special attention to the new National 10 x 10 Award!

Keep a lookout on the Department Facebook page and the Department E-Newsletter for some special challenges and membership updates. Also, stay tuned for more information on Department Membership Awards. This year they will be challenging and rewarding.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact any one of us.

Judy Ring – Chairman (Gold Zone, Districts 7, 8, & 9)

Judyring.auxiliary@outlook.com

Alida Kolthoff – (Blue Zone, Districts 1, 2, & 4)

Jakolthoff@hotmail.com

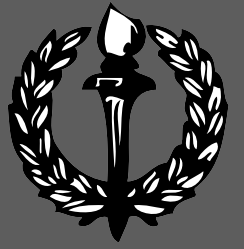
Jammie Phillips – (Red Zone, Districts 3, 5, & 6)

Jammie.phillips@yahoo.com

If you have not registered for the E-Newsletter, sign up today by going to the website and clicking on Sign Up.



THE AMERICAN LEGION OF IOWA FOUNDATION



2018-2019 Iowa Foundation Donors

Individual Donors

Carl Anderson
 Rich Anderson
 Marie Anderson
 Howard Bender
 Arnie Binneboese
 Richard Bullock
 Cathleen Burnett
 Nichole Clapp
 Bev Copple
 Ann Crawford
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 Kevin & Linda Stoolman
 Don Swan
 Larry Thompson
 Bob Waugh
 Karen Wenstrand
 Richard Witt
 Keith Zevenbergen

American Legion Posts & Districts

AL Post 37
 AL Post 61
 AL Post 66
 AL Post 165
 AL Post 288
 AL Post 291
 AL Post 296
 AL 8th District
 AL 6th District
 AL 1st District
 AL 9th District
 AL 3rd District
 AL 4th District
 AL 7th District

American Legion Auxiliary Units & Districts

ALA Unit 9
 ALA Unit 77
 ALA Unit 357
 ALA 9th District

Sons of The American Legion

SAL Squadron 241
 SAL Detachment

Other Donors & Organizations

PDC Club
 NE Iowa Foundation
 1st District Golf Outing
 Mary Jean Johnson Estate
 Sharon Anderson ALA President's Project
 Capital Consultants, Brian Johnson

Levels of Recognition for Donors

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

The Booster Program

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

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

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

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

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

The Pinnacle Program

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Thank
 you for your
 thoughtful
 generosity!*

Contributions to The American Legion of Iowa Foundation

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

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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

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

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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

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



Walk For Veterans

The American Legion of Iowa once again participated in the Annual Veterans Day Parade at the Iowa State Fair with the Walk for Veterans. Legion Family was well represented as Past Department Commander J. Scott Moline (2018-2019) and Department Commander James Kessler (2019-2020) led the walk. Along side the two commanders was Auxiliary President Kelly Elliott (2019-2020) and Auxiliary Executive Director Crystal Wright.

In addition to the walk participants, Legion Posts and Units were also represented during the parade. Some floats recreated history while others enjoyed waving to the crowd from their float. The American Legion of Iowa provided information under a covered tent at the booth along the Grand Concourse. Since the recent passing of The LEGION Act, opportunities to join as members are available to those who were not previously eligible. The LEGION Act paves way for not only veterans to join but their families as well. This means opportunities for growth with the Auxiliary and Sons.

The parade involvement was a great witness to the 100 years of service The American Legion has provided to the many communities represented across Iowa and this Nation.

For a look at more photos of the event, go to the Department's website: www.ialegion.org/wfv



Iowa Military Veterans Band

Star Spangled Salute to Veterans

Sunday, November 3, 2019, 2:00 PM

Des Moines Civic Center, 221 Walnut St., Des Moines, IA

www.iowamilitaryveteransband.com/schedule

Fall District Conferences

September 14, 2019

District 7 - Atlantic

September 28, 2019

District 6 - Ames

September 29, 2019

District 8 - Livermore

October 5, 2019

District 2 - Ely

October 19, 2019

District 4 - Mason City

October 26, 2019

District 1 - Swisher
District 5 - Deep River

October 27, 2019

SAL - Des Moines

November 2, 2019

District 3 - Marshalltown
District 9 - Ida Grove

For more details including hotel and hospitality information if applicable, please visit:

<https://www.ialeion.org/districtconferences>

Department Sweepstakes Winners

This year's Department Sweepstakes winners are as follows:

- Ed Goergen, Sioux City
- Marvin Jamison, Clive
- Dickie Wells, West Chester
- Dominic Ellis, Des Moines
- Bob Wenger, Atkins
- Merlin Stanton, Sibley
- Clyde Chelsvig, Boone

There were many entries. Congratulations to all who won! Thank you to everyone who participated by purchasing tickets.

Department Membership

Donald Swan, Chairman

Membership Fall Report Fall

By now we are finishing up our second month of Membership for the 2019-2020 year. Fall is here, and there is a lot to do before winter. This year let's do Membership differently, but work together as a team and continue to check on our members welfare and ask for their dues this fall instead of waiting until another event later in the year. If we all systematically work on this problem together we will have a much better

Membership Memos

Here we are beginning another new membership year. I have been here a little over 12 years now and have been doing the membership for almost 9 full years and have experienced many changes over that time and we try to pass those changes on to all of you at the posts, counties and districts. The latest of these changes is the Online Post Transmittals of membership to National thru myLegion.org. If you are using that method for transmitting your membership, thank you, but membership credits you're your post receives for individual online and PUFL payments will require that occasionally you will need to send a manual transmittal to department to use that credit. If you have a question or not sure of something, feel free to call me and I will gladly assist you.

For those that are still sending transmittals to Department as you always have, remember that there are three items that must be included. They are 1. Membership Transmittal Form filled out in full, 2. A check for payment (make sure it is signed) and 3. The 2-part cards for the members

chance to be successful meeting our goals. There are also the 729 and the National DMS members. These Legionnaires are not attached to a Post and when you contact them and if they agree to join your Post they are easy to transfer.

There are many options for you at the Post and if you need help learning how to find these Legionnaires, contact your Commanders, Vice Commanders of the Legion Headquarters and we will help.

that you are paying for.

If you are transferring a member from another post to your post you must send a completed Member Data Form to Department to make the transfer happen, no exceptions.

Please refer to the Membership Processing Manual for examples and if you still have questions, feel free to contact me at Department Headquarters.

All membership that is to me by September 9 will be processed in time so those members do not get another renewal notice.

Another change that is new is the passing of the Legion Act which allows all veterans that served since December 7, 1941 to now be a Legion Member. You can read more information about this on our website at ialeion.org.

This is the time to get as much membership collected as possible and sent in so let's get it going and have a good year.

Marcia Hoch
Department Membership &
Executive Secretary

Congratulations to Ron Woodard (Woodward, IA) from Waukee American Legion Post #737 upon winning the Centennial 1911 Pistol which was on display during The Department Convention!

STANDING	DISTRICT	2020 GROWTH GOAL	CURRENT MEMBERSHIP	PERCENTAGE
First				
Second				
Third				
Fourth				
Fifth				
Sixth				
Seventh				
Eighth				
Ninth				
DEPARTMENT TOTAL				

Coming Soon!

District Membership Standings will be available online after August 30th at: www.ialeion.org/membership. Download the Membership Report Cover.

The next membership cutoff date is September 11, 2019. Transmittals must be at Department two days prior for processing.

Due to the delayed accuracy of the quarterly published membership report, it will no longer be printed in The Iowa Legionnaire. You may find an accurate report for your post on myLegion.org or www.ialeion.org/membership.

2020 MID-WINTER CONFERENCE February 14, 2020 - February 16, 2019

Start Reserving Your Hotel Room Now
Holiday Inn Des Moines - Airport Conference Center
6111 Fleur Drive
Des Moines, IA 50321
515-287-2400

Request The American Legion rate while reserving
A detailed schedule for Mid-Winter will be available in the next issue of
The Iowa Legionnaire and Communiqué.

Do you know your extended benefits as a member?

Auto Rental

Alamo
Enterprise
National Car Rental

Financial & Insurance

Mutual of Omaha
USAA

Medical

Amplifon Hearing Health Care
CVS Caremark
LifeStation

Moving & Relocation

North American Van Lines

Post Discounts

Office Depot/Office Max

Retail

Office Depot/Office Max

Travel & Lodging

GOV Vacation Rewards
Motel 6
Veterans Holidays
Wyndham Hotels & Resorts

For a complete list, visit:
www.legion.org/benefits/all

Commemorative 100th Anniversary Coins

The 100th anniversary of the The American Legion on March 15, 1919, is now commemorated with these coin. The American Legion's primary focus is on service to veterans, service members, and communities. The American Legion was founded on four pillars: Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, Children and Youth, and was incorporated by Congress the same year as a patriotic veterans' organization devoted to mutual helpfulness.

Join us in celebrating The American Legion's 100 years of service! Order yours at <https://catalog.usmint.gov>.



Adjutant's Article Continued...

That concern has now been addressed. With the passage of The Legion Act, anyone with honorable active service since December 7, 1941 is now eligible to join. This opens the door to approximately 6 million veterans nationally. It also expands the eligibility of family members to join the Sons of The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary. With the expansion of our eligibility period, I am confident we can increase the number of new members we

bring into our organization. With an increased focus on renewals, we can put an end to declining membership and establish a strong foundation for the future.

"We can do it," said Oxford. To achieve these goals, community engagement has to be a part of every post's membership program. "Every post has a story to tell. We can all help tell the story by branding and bragging. Tell the story, increase our visibility. We have to show people who we are and what we do."

The American Legion Honored During RAGBRAI

By The American Legion

Legion posts came out to support the oldest, largest and longest recreational bicycle touring event, RAGBRAI, in the world. The ride named July 22 American Legion Day. Thanks to the efforts of Past District Commander Carl Anderson of District 8 and other Legionnaires of Iowa. Anderson, a member of Severson Post 77 in Kanawha, originally got into bicycling when his daughter asked him to participate in RAGBRAI as a father-daughter ride.

American Legion Day was celebrated in Winterset; that evening, national, department and local American Legion leaders were honored on stage in front of a large crowd in the city's downtown.

American Legion Past National Commander Dave Rehbein (Ames Post #37) spent his time on stage explaining The American Legion's Four Pillars. "We're out of the uniform. Now we serve in civilian life," he said, asking those in attendance to remember U.S. servicemembers once they leave the military. "When those folks come home, some of them bring problems with them. We have to be there for them."

RAGBRAI Director T.J. Juskiewicz said honoring the Legion was an easy choice. "(Legionnaires) have been serving our country and then serving our communities for 100 years," he said. "RAGBRAI travels into the town where there are Legion posts every year. It was just to draw some attention to that they've been doing some great service for 100 years. We felt it was a perfect year to do it."

Riders began in Council Bluffs on Sunday, July 21 and completed the ride in Keokuk on Saturday, July 27. To read the full articles and see photos of the event published by National, visit: <https://www.legion.org/centennial/246487/sharing-legion-mission-ragbrai-audience>. Further details regarding the ride can also be found at www.ragbrai.com.



2018-2019 Membership Awards

Post Growth Award: Lt. Julius L. Shryer American Legion Post #430 (District 1) - Durant, IA. This award is won by any post that has an increase of 1 or more members than the previous year for 10 or more years. Post #430 has 43 years of consecutive growth.

5 Year All Time High Award: Lt. Julius L. Shryer American Legion Post #430 (District 1)- Durant, IA with 42 years.

Commander's Membership Sweepstakes Runner Up: Carson American Legion Post #556 (District 7) - Carson, IA with 17 over.

Commander's Membership Sweepstakes 1st Place Winner is Focht-Tennant American Legion Post #53 (District 5) - Grinnell, IA with 19 over. Post #53 was awarded the Spafford Trophy.

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For more information call 1-877-699-2654

2019-2020 Americanism Programs

The American Legion Department of Iowa begins a new year promoting its values among the youth of our communities. The Americanism programs provide resources and education in Americanism and patriotism. For many of these programs, a scholarship may be awarded. Posts will be receiving a letter this Fall to provide you with the information and materials you need to promote these programs within your community.

Here is a list of the programs under Americanism:

American Legion of Iowa Boys State
High School Oratorical Contest
Fifth Grade Flag Essay Contest
American Legion Baseball
Junior Shooting Sports
Scouting

In addition, posts can participate in nominating outstanding citizens within their community such as:

Educator of the Year
Fire Fighter of the Year
Law Enforcement Officer of the Year
Eagle Scout of the Year
Adult Cub and Boy Scouter of the Year

Information and chairman contacts regarding any of these programs can be found on The Department's website.

Junior Shooting Sports Program

The Department of Iowa's Junior Shoot Sports Program has gained a following since it has been introduced. There is not any reason your post or club in your community cannot be involved with the program. The American Legion offers an affiliation program where posts can affiliate for free and receive information to participate in matches. Go to the American Legion's Website: www.legion.org and look under Programs for Junior Shooting Sports. Affiliation information can also be found through the Department Website.

Department Chair, Gary Palas, has offered to educate and demonstrate for any post or club looking to be involved. Contact the Department of Iowa and we will get you in touch with Gary and his team.

The Department will again have its 3-Position Air Rifle Match March 14, 2020 at Camp Dodge. Teams or clubs willing to participate can contact Department Headquarters for more information on registering. **Official affiliation registrations must be in to the Department no later than December 31, 2019.**

Shooters wishing to participate at Department Matches need to also register with the Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP), which is free. Information can be found through www.thecmp.org.

Registration for the Department Match will be made available later in the year at www.ialegion.org/jssp. For more information email: programs@ialegion.org or call 800-365-8387.



Iowa Represented at National JSSP Championship

Three Iowans, all from the Des Moines North MCJROTC unit and sponsored by Des Moines Post #374 (Hiland Park), qualified in the sporter category for the 2019 JSSP National Championship match held July 25-27. They were Arturo Zaragoza, Kevin Nguyen, and Sidney Krejci. Kevin and Sidney finished fifth and eighth in the match with scores of 2,301.3 and 2,267.5 respectively. The highest possible score is 2,509. Kevin was recognized for shooting the highest score in the finals with a score of 93.3. Congratulations to them and their MCJROTC and sponsoring post. Having three shooters in the top 15 in the country is outstanding.

2019-2020 Fifth Grade Flag Essay Contest

General Information:

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

Awards:

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

Contests:

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

1. Individual Legion Posts will forward one winning entry to their District Children and Youth Chairman, with signed Participation Application, postmarked by January 2, 2020.
2. District entries will be judged by the respective District Children and Youth Chairman, and sent to Department Headquarters, postmarked by January 22, 2020.
3. Department Children and Youth Committee will judge the nine District entries at Mid-Winter Conference, immediately following the Americanism meeting.

Essay:

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

Eligibility:

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

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

2019-2020 High School Oratorical Contest

The Oratorical Contest will be underway very soon comprising of Local, County, District and Area Contests. The Department Finals will be held Sunday, February 16, 2020 in Des Moines during Mid-Winter Convention. The Department Finalist will advance to the National Contest April 17-19, 2020. Each contest champion will have the opportunity to receive a scholarship. For more information regarding the contest, rules & regulations, applications, dates and deadlines, visit the Department Website.

Completion dates for the contest are as follows:

- Local Contests must be completed by December 8, 2019
- County Contests must be completed by January 5, 2020
- District Contests must be completed by January 19, 2020
- Area Contests must be completed by February 2, 2020

PLEASE NOTE: These contests DO NOT have to take place on the completion dates (Sundays).

Hosts, dates, location and time will be made available through the Department Website once know. For further information, please see your local post or District Chairman. Any further inquiries can be directed to the Department of Iowa Headquarters: programs@ialegion.org | 800-365-8387 or visit www.ialegion.org/oratorical



Articles are due November 15, 2019 in order to be considered for the next issue of The Iowa Legionnaire.
 Please email submissions to programs@ialegion.org

Find American Legion of Iowa Program Information at:
www.ialegion.org/programs

2018-2019 Program Winners & Recipients

Boys State: Geoffrey Astor, Post #130 (Ft. Dodge) SAL Band Award; Blake Perkins, Post #219 (Arlington) SAL Chorus Award; Samuel Sirna, Post #59 (Story City) Andy Haverman Scholarship; Trejahn Manning, Post #374 (HP, DSM) Donald E. Johnson Outstanding Citizen Award; Patrick Junker, Post #403 (Van Meter) Boys State Governor Scholarship & Boys Nation; Samuel Harrison, Post #199 (Sioux Center) SAL Scholarship Lt. Governor; Luke Prendergast, Post #653 (Denver) Boys Nation; Kyler Sander, Post #31 (Lake City) Boys Nation Alternative 1; Animesh Joshi, Post #620 (WDSM) Boys Nation Alternative 2; Jacob James, Post #2 (Council Bluffs) Samsung Finalist; Cole Lindaman, Post #246 (Clarion) Legal Merit Award; John Alex Baker, Post #98 (Clarinda) Keith Baker Scholarship; Isaiah Wagner, Post #274 (BP, DSM) SAL Highway Patrol Award

Scouting: Ethan Hoefler, Post #137 (Dyersville) Eagle Scout of the Year; Hunter Wright, Post #238 (DeWitt) Runner Up; Logan Van Itallie, (no post) 3rd Place

Fifth Grade Flag Essay: Sherry Tang, Post #347 (Le Claire) First Place; Kloeey Rine, Post #88 (Shenandoah) Second Place; Jaime Self, Post #407 (Unionville) Third Place

Educator of the Year: Kevin Mundt, Post #430 (Durant)

Firefighter of the Year: Zackery Harvey, Post #182 (Eldora) National Finalist

LEO of the Year: Jason Grubbs, Post #37 (Ames)

Oratorical: Patrick Junker, Post #403 (Van Meter) First Place; Thomas Evans, Post #607 (Breda) Second; Jessica Cline, Post #298 (Marion) Third

CPR Community Service: Lyle W. Barnes Post #398 (Quimby) Hanford Post Trophy; USS San Diego Post #207 (La Porte City) Becker-Chapman Trophy; Stinocher Post #460 (Solon) Davenport Trophy Wasmer Post #241 (Le Mars) Warren Post Trophy; Marion Post #298 (Marion) Frank Lewis Glick Trophy; Baldwin Patterson Post #274 (Des Moines) Ames Post Trophy; Second District (85%) William C. Rathke Award; Homer Hall Post #66 (Charter Oak) God and Country Award; Lake Park Post #371 (Lake Park) Educate American Award; Marion Post #298 (Marion) Public Relations Award; Doornink-Brunsting Post #199 (Sioux Center) Operation Troop Support Award; Scherrman-Peterson Post #656 (Farley) Step Up Award; Wasmer Post #241 (Le Mars) Service to Community, State & Nation Award

CPR Children & Youth: Scherrman Peterson Post #656 (Farley) Most Outstanding; Howard Cessna Post #136 (Albia) Overall Runner Up; West Union Post #15 (West Union) Category 1 Overall; Swisher Post #671 (Swisher) Category 2 Overall; Wasmer Post #241 (Le Mars) Category 3 Overall; Marion Post #298 (Marion) Category 4 Overall

Junior Shooting Sports: Sydney Krejci, Post #374 (HP, DSM) First Place Overall; Adrianna Campos, Post #374 (HP, DSM) Second Place Overall; Ayden Wells, Post #374 (HP, DSM) Third Place Overall; Sydney Krejci, Post #374 (HP, DSM) Age Category 1 – First; Adrianna

Campos, Post #374 (HP, DSM) Age Category 1 – Second; James Masteller, Post #374 (HP, DSM) Age Category 1 – Third; Ayden Wells, Post #374 (HP, DSM) Age Category 2 – First; Arion Cartagena, Post #374 (HP, DSM) Age Category 2 – Second; Cecilia Zaragoza, Post #374 (HP, DSM) Age Category 2 – Third; Annabell Forbes, Post #457 (Lone Tree) Age Category 3 – First Abigail O'Rear, Post #671 (Swisher) Age Category 3 – Second; Kiara Hallett, Post #27 (Muscatine) Age Category 3 – Third; Des Moines North, Post #374 (HP, DSM) First Place Team; Mumm's Jr. Rifles, Post #457 (Lone Tree) Second Place Team; Swisher Sharpshooters, Post #671, (Swisher) Third Place Team

Legionnaire of the Year: Cliff Ripke, Post #288 (Hartley)

2019 Baseball: Cody Deardorff, Dubuque Co. Baseball, Post #6 (Dubuque) 2019 American Legion Baseball Player of the Year Scholarship (Awarded the following year); Dubuque County American Legion Baseball, Post #528 (Cascade), Post #6 (Dubuque), Post #137 (Dyersville), Post #650 (Epworth), Post #656 (Farley) Championship Team; Woodbury County Baseball, Post #662 (Sgt. Bluff) Runner Up

IALPA: Bellevue Post #273 Category 1 – Single Sheet; Gladbrook Post #127 Category 2 – Multiple Sheet; Bellevue Post #273 Category 3 – Electronic; Dubuque Post #6 Category 4 - Website

Dept. Color Guard Competition: J.L. Shryer American Legion Post #430 (Durant) Military Open Class & Advance and Retire Colors Class Winners

Law Enforcement Officer of The Year Nominations

Each year, The American Legion of Iowa gives its Department Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award to a well-rounded law enforcement officer who has exceeded the duty requirements expected of his or her position and has demonstrated a distinct pattern of community service coupled with professional achievement. The award, which especially takes into account heroic acts, is presented annually at the Legion's Department Convention. The Department of Iowa then nominates its winner for consideration for the National Law Enforcement Officer of the Year. The national award is presented annually at the Legion's National Convention.

Nominees must be U.S. citizens and living, active, full-time and paid, sworn law enforcement officers entrusted with full authority and the powers of

arrest.

Nominees must be assigned to or fully recognized by municipal, county, district or state police; highway patrol; sheriff's office or as a sworn federal law enforcement officer (FBI, Secret Service agent, U.S. Marshal, National Park Police, U.S. Capitol Police, etc.) Military police officers or investigators are eligible if they are state law enforcement certified.

Nominees must also reside and be assigned or attached for duty in the Department of Iowa.

Nominations must be received by Department Headquarters no later than November 30th, 2019 to be considered.

Nomination forms can be downloaded from our website: www.ialegon.org/lawenforcement.

Forms can be emailed to programs@ialegon.org or mailed to The American Legion of Iowa, Attn: Programs, 720 Lyon Street, Des Moines, IA 50309.

Firefighter of the Year Nominations

The American Legion of Iowa will give its Department Firefighter of the Year Award to a firefighter who has exceeded the requirements expected of his or her position and has shown a distinct pattern of community service and professional achievement. The award, which takes into account heroic acts, will be given annually at the Legion's Department Convention.

Fire departments are encouraged to submit nominations to the Department National Affairs Committee. Applications must be received by November 30. The Department winner nomination packet will be forwarded to national for consideration of the

National Firefighter of the Year award, which is presented annually at the Legion's National Convention.

Nominees must be active firefighters and U.S. citizens. Emergency medical technicians (EMTs) are eligible only if they are certified firefighters.

Nominees must also reside and be assigned within the Department of Iowa.

Nominations must be received by Department Headquarters no later than November 30th, 2019 to be considered.

Nomination forms can be downloaded from our website: www.ialegon.org/firefighter.

Forms can be emailed to programs@ialegon.org or mailed to The American Legion of Iowa, Attn: Programs, 720 Lyon Street, Des Moines, IA 50309.

Regional & World Series Baseball

Congratulations again, to The Dubuque County Baseball team for winning the Department Tournament two years in a row and advancing to The Central Plains Regionals. The regional tournament was hosted in Sioux Fall, SD.

Teams from Appleton, WI; Edina, MN; Excelsior, MN; Fargo, ND; Oshkosh, WI; Renner, SD; and Sioux Fall, SD all played for their chance to represent the Central Plain in the American Legion Baseball

World Series. While Dubuque County played hard, they were eliminated from the Central Plains tournament with losses to Appleton, WI and Renner, SD.

North Dakota advanced from Central Plains tournament to play in the Legion World Series in Shelby, NC and made it to the final game only to be defeated by Idaho. For the completed schedules and scores from the Central Plains, visit: <https://americanlegion.sportngin.com/2019region6>.

For the scores and replays from the World Series, visit: <https://www.legion.org/baseball/worldseries>.

Dubuque County American Legion Baseball Team



2019 American Legion of Iowa Boys State Delegates and Counselors



A Delegate's Perspective

The American Legion of Iowa's Boys State program is known as *Iowa's Premiere Civic Education Program*. There are plenty of reasons that this phrase holds true, but perhaps the reality is that the delegates who complete the six day program would most likely not receive a true hands-on civic course such as this. Each delegate that is selected by American Legion Posts throughout Iowa find out what the democratic process looks like from the ground up. Delegates experience processes related to city, county, and state government. They learn what offices are held and even experience what it is like to be unemployed.

The success of this program is shaped by the countless hours and heart poured in from the counselors, directors, and post chairmen. These individuals see this through from before the program week to the final assembly on Friday. Many of these counselors receive verbal gratitude from delegates, which is of course appreciated. However, there are some delegates who share a written note and we thought we would share from their perspective. The names and city have been removed.

Dear [Post Chairman], I am writing to tell you how thankful I am to you and the [City] Legionnaires for allowing me the chance to go to Boys State. Going to Camp Dodge has been an extremely valuable experience to me. During my week I ran for a spot in the Senate and was able to win and take part in the state government to pass new laws. When I wasn't doing that, I got to meet new people and even befriend some of them, a gift I would not have found somewhere else. I don't know how much feedback you get, but let me tell you that you and the Legionnaires must continue to help enroll boys in this program, it gives important knowledge and insight that is being lost these days. It gives me pride to say that Boys State has provided me this knowledge, it's very vital, it needs to be passed on to the next generation. So, a final thank you for picking me out of the crowd. Boys State has influenced my future, while giving me memories to look back on. Thank you, [Delegate].

This is the perspective of just one delegate a Legionnaire shared with us. There are many more whose experience is similar. We encourage you to consider sending at least one delegate this year if your post has never participated or it has been a while. Appreciation is something that is welcome and makes us feel great. However, the impact made on a delegate in your community is what shapes the present and future. You never know the new course in one's life that is shaped or reshaped because you went out on limb to invest in them now. We encourage you to find ways to send at least one delegate. Speak with your District Chairman to find creative ways to fund the fee. Don't let lack of funds deter your post.

Go to www.ialegion.org/boysstate for more information.

Boys State Resources Available Online

- Dates & Reminders
- Post Chairman Guide
- Reservation Information
- Orientation Materials
- Delegate Handbook
- Photos & Videos
- Post Refund Information
- FAQs



At the conclusion of The American Legion of Iowa Boys State, two representatives are selected to go the Nation's Capitol as Boys Nation Senators on behalf of the State of Iowa. This year was no exception with two outstanding Boys State Citizens, Patrick Junker and Luke Prendergast.

Junker, sponsored by Van Meter American Legion Post #403, is from Waukee and attends Van Meter High School. Prendergast, sponsored by Denver American Legion Post #653, is from Denver and attends Denver Community Schools.

We are very proud to have sent these two as



Boys Nation Recipients (L to R): Alt. 2 Animesh Joshi, Luke Prendergast, Patrick Junker - Boys State Governor (Not Pictured: Alt. 1 Kyler Sander)

representatives of Iowa and The American Legion of Iowa Boys State.

Each delegate is evaluated and interviewed for the two distinguished positions. Boys Nation took place July 19-27 in Arlington, VA. Delegates are sent as state Senators.

More information can be found at: www.legion.org/boysnation.

2020 Boys State Reservations

Department Headquarters will begin to take post reservations for the 2020 American Legion of Iowa Boys State Program soon. The dates next year have been set for Sunday, June 21 through Friday, June 26, 2020. Posts are highly encouraged to:

1. Take advantage of the early reservation price break.
2. Reserve spots online for delegates.

Online reservations make for a cleaner administrative process. If your post does not have a computer, find someone who does and ask them to help. If for some reason that is not at all possible, green sheets will be available.

The cut off for the early bird reservation price break (\$250) is December 31, 2019. As long as the post's reservation is made online by the December 31 deadline, checks will be accepted for the early bird price. In the mean time, posts can be actively searching for qualified candidates. Please direct any questions to your Post or District Chairmen concerning the process.

TIMETABLE AND DEADLINES

September 2019 - Reservations open and accepted. A Chairman's Guide will be made available online to help you begin the candidate selection process.

December 31, 2019 - Early Bird Reservation Deadline.

January 1, 2020 - Reservation fee increases to \$300.

January 15, 2020 - Delegate registration letters will be sent out to posts. Posts are to deliver them to candidates for registration. **Samsung Scholarship Applications** will be made available through the Department Website.

April 1, 2020 - Post Refund Request Deadline - Requests must be received in writing (letter, email preferably) by 11:59 PM. No exceptions will be honored afterwards.

April 1, 2020 - Delegate Registration Cut Off

April-May 2020 - Delegates and parents will receive a copy of the Boys State Handbook. District Orientations will take place (see Department website for more details).

June 21-26, 2020 - The American Legion Boys State Program held at Camp Dodge in Johnston, Iowa.

June 23, 2020 - Legionnaire's Day at Boys State

Any further inquiries may be directed to Department Headquarters:
boysstate@ialegion.org | 800-365-8387 or visit www.ialegion.org/boysstate