



American Legion Urbandale Post 663

August 2024

6805 Douglas Avenue

Urbandale IA 50322

For further information Phone: 515-278-8940

www.urbandaleamericanlegion.org

OFFICERS LIST

Commander	Mike Knight	515-556-9239	Chaplain	Rob Stark	515-979-2925
1st Vice			Finance Officer	Don Swan	515-710-5350
2nd Vice	Larry Draughn	515-238-1856	Sgt-At-Arms	Mark Dreckman	515-491-8973
Adjutant	Steve Smith	515-745-7236	Membership	Peg Mullen	515-205-6853
Service officer	Robert Morris	515-278-4231	Facility Manager	Fred Gagen	515-669-2612
Auxiliary President	Joann Hotovec	515-306-1926	Bldg. Rental	VFW Rental Team	515-681-9663

"This nation will remain the land of the free only so long as it is the home of the brave." – Elmer Davis

Commanders Comments:

From the Desk of the Commander:

I would like to thank every one of you that has donated to our Parking Lot Project. The feedback and support have been overwhelming.

I want to report that we have been issued the Grant from Polk County for our portion of the Patriotic Mural to be painted on the East side of our building. With this being said we will have numerous meetings in the future with Parks and Recreation to insure all parties will be in agreement with this venture.

This is a reminder that on August 17th, starting at 10 AM we will have the Quarterly **Food Drive** at the Post. Please feel free to volunteer to help for any length of time between 10 AM and 2 PM with accepting food and or monetary donations from the public. If you would like to donate food or money it will be much appreciated. Please make your check out to the Urbandale Food Pantry.

The **Flag Retirement Ceremony** that was cancelled has been **rescheduled for the 7th of September** starting at 10 AM at the Park on Camp Dodge. Following the ceremony the VFW will provide a free BBQ for all of those attending. Please try and attend if you can.

Please write this down on your calendars that our next Dinner/Meeting will be on September 19th with happy hour starting at 5:30PM with dinner starting at 6:00pm. **Ruby Tuesday Restaurant** will cater Dinner, consisting of a full meal with cookies as desert. This meal will be based on a FREE WILL DONATION.

I am asking you to RSVP me by September 9th. Please Text me or leave a message on my phone (515-556-9239), you can also e-mail me at (msgt_knight1946@msn.com). We really need to get an accurate count so **Ruby Tuesday** can supply the right amount of food for us and have time to prepare it. **Texas Roadhouse and Ruby Tuesday** now can be found on our Web Site

(urbandaleamericanlegion.org) under **Sponsors**. Click on their logo and it will take you to their Web Site.

Have a great summer!

Michael Knight Post #663 Commander

Membership Report:

The 2025 membership renewal initiative is going great! Only one month in, and we are just shy of 150 members already paid and in good **standing**. **Thanks to those of you** that were quick to renew -- doing so saves the Legion printing and mailing costs for a second renewal notice this fall. If you have questions about where your renewal dollars go, or how you can most easily renew for 2025, please feel free to contact me. Also -- please keep me posted on any residence moves, or phone number changes. I can update your National records, so you continue to receive all Legion correspondence. Thank you. **Peg Mullen, Membership Chairperson**
rpusn20@gmail.com

Urbandale Auxiliary Unit 663:

Thank you to everyone who helped to prepare our breakfast and to those of you who attended and made a donation. I am happy to say that we received more than enough to send 1 girl to Girls State next year. Our Auxiliary recently made a donation to the VA hospital in DM to help with expenses for the resident's birthday parties. And this month we are in the process of preparing a care package to send to the sailors aboard the USS Berkeley which was recently deployed. Our Membership drive is underway and our collection of dues is going well.

Our next meeting will be August 26 at 1pm at the Legion Hall.

Joann Hotovec, President American Legion Auxiliary, #663



URBANDALE POST 663
6805 DOUGLAS AVENUE
Urbandale IA 50322

Reservations Required

**Dinner Meeting on
 September 19th Free Will
 Donation text me or** leave a
 message on my phone (**515-556-
 9239**), you can also e-mail me at:
cmsgknight1946@msn.com

From the Adjutant:

"Volunteerism" is one of our primary privileges as American Legion members. Many of you devote countless hours volunteering all In last month's Newsletter, I reached out to all of you to with an invitation to participate in the 105th Annual Convention of the American Legion, Department of Iowa. Thanks to those who attended and represented Post 663. Based on our membership, we were authorized 7 Delegates and 7 Alternates. We were somewhat short of our authorized number. Those who attended found it to be informative and worthwhile. Having attended for the first time, I have decided that I'll do it again next year and hope that some of you will join me. I was pleasantly surprised when Post 663 was presented with the 2024 CHILDREN AND YOUTH AWARD for Category 3 posts. This award was based upon our involvement with Boy's State, the Fifth Grade Essay Program, Honor Guard services at the High School football games, Boy Scouts, and other volunteer activities involving local youth. across our communities. Instead of waiting to come up with a list of hours spent doing these things at the end of the reporting cycle next year (May,2025), I'm asking that you all think about jotting down even a crude record of the things that you do for others (American Legion, Schools, camps, Boy's State, 5th Grade Essay contest, Church activities, Food Bank, Salvation Army, and on and on.) and provide a summary for me to use in completing next year's Post Consolidation Report. More state awards are in our future. Thanks in advance for your efforts.

A main goal announced by the newly elected State Commander, Brian D. Ring, Sr., involved membership. As many of you know, American Legion membership is aging and is declining due to the passing of long-time members and younger veterans are not joining in adequate numbers. Commander Ring challenged all in attendance to recruit two new members in the coming year. He emphasized that quite often it's as easy as simply asking a veteran if they're a member and following up with an invitation to join. So, "ASK AWAY"!

Until next month,
 Stephen Smith, Post 663 Adjutant
Stephen Smith Post #663 Adjutant

Dates to Remember:

**Officer's Meeting First
 Thursday of the month @ the
 Post 5:30 PM**

September 2, Labor Day

September 7, Flag Retirement

September 8, Grandparents Day

September 11, Patriot Day

September 22, Autumn Begins

POSITION TO BE FILLED:

Membership

The current position is being held by **Peg Mullen**, who has informed the Post that she will be stepping down as of the last day of December of this year.

This position will report to the Adjutant and both will ensure that membership is maintained and accounted for in a timely manner.

**Please feel free to contact the
 Commander at**

**(515-556-9239) by text or his email at
 (cmsgknight1946).**

Flag Presentations: It is time again for flag presentations at the Urbandale football games. Please contact Robert Morris at 278-4231 or at robertmorris4710@gmail.com for more information or to volunteer. The game dates are:

August 30th Indianola, September 20th Dubuque,
 October 11th Dowling, October 18th Johnston.