



American Legion Urbandale Post 663



August 2026

Commander	Rob Stark	515-979-2925
1 st Vice	Jim Cade	515-205-7054
2 nd Vice (Comms)	Nichole McDowell	515-729-4600 namcdowell2@gmail.com
Adjutant	Stephen Smith	515-745-7236 ss49er@hotmail.com
Service Officer	Mark Jewell	515-954-8584 markjewell496@ymail.com
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Chaplain	Rob Stark	515-979-2925
Membership	Don Swan	515-710-5350
Sgt-At-Arms	Larry Draughn	515-254-0805
Building Rental	Jim Cade	515-681-9663
Post Contact Info Post Website Post FB Group Post FB Page	6805 Douglas Ave Urbandale IA 50322	515-278-8940 http://www.urbandaleamericanlegion.org https://www.facebook.com/groups/1613927332248092 https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61583540094669

AUGUST DINNER MEETING RESERVATION - Please RSVP to Don Swan by Tuesday, August 18, 2026 for the Thursday, August 20, 2026 Dinner.. RSVPS may be made through Don's cell phone at 515-710-5350 or to the Post email legionpost663@gmail.com. August's Meal will be pizza and salad with ice cream and pie for dessert. Following the meal and meeting, Larry Wright from the Iowa Gold Star Museum on Camp Dodge will have a presentation.

"If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more, and become more, you are a leader." - John Quincy Adams



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From the Desk of the Commander

I hope all of you have been having a great summer! As usual, time has flown by and soon the children will be going back to school. Our calendar is filling up with our annual projects to serve our Post, Central Iowa Veterans, the homeless and other programs. If you are in a position to help with any of the aforementioned, please step forward, as you can. We will give plenty of lead time, so you all will know what is coming up next and how you can be of assistance. We are also looking for suggestions on what programs YOU want to be presented at our monthly dinner meetings. Please email our 2nd Vice Nichole with your recommendations and we will do our best to get your suggestions on the calendar. We have done a little swapping of duties on the Board of Officers. Peg will be our new Treasurer and Don will become the Membership Chair. Their leadership and talent will serve our post well in their respective positions for the foreseeable future! Looking forward to seeing all of you at dinner on the 20th---please RSVP to Don. May God continue to bless you, your families, our community, state and nation!

Rob Stark, Commander Post 663

Urbandale Auxiliary

Our Auxiliary received an award at the Department Convention at the Holiday Inn because we achieved 100% of our membership goal for the past year. Now we will be accepting our membership payments for the coming year. This month we donated \$500 to the Des Moines Stand Down for homeless veterans. It was appreciated. Another project for this month is to host our breakfast on August 7 at the Legion Hall. We will honor the girls that we sent to Girls State. They will give reports on their activities which were held at Drake University from June 14-19. Our next meeting will be Tuesday September 22 at 1pm at the Legion Hall.

Joann Hotovec, Auxiliary President Unit 663

From the Adjutant

Greetings to you all as summer is fast drawing to a close. Do you remember that I asked for summaries of your volunteer activities and hours that you spent in service to our communities? The results didn't come flying in, so I had to get creative when I wrote the addendum to the Consolidated Post Report. I was able to glean enough information from reports received, observations, and conversations to document a bunch of Post 663 accomplishments. I accepted the Children and Youth Award for Post 663 at the IA Department Convention last month. There are numerous other awards that were available if only the information was presented for consideration.

Two of the Post 663 members were present at the IA Department Convention. Post 663 was authorized to have 6 delegates and 6 Alternates at the convention to vote on officer elections and assorted issues presented to the body. Hopefully, Post 663 will have increased attendance



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next year. That being said, there was a bit of disturbing information presented at the convention that requires immediate action.

1. The Iowa Department finished the 2026 membership year \$78,000 in the RED. This was due to numerous causes and will result in the cancellation or reduction of some of our important programs that benefit all veterans.
2. Membership declined by 2100 in the past year. Everyone can help to reduce those numbers. All one has to do is ask any veterans that you may encounter if they are a Legion member. If not, sell them on the benefits of joining and get them in touch with our membership chairman.

For God and Country, Stephen Smith, Adjutant

From the Membership Chair

The 2026 membership year has officially wrapped up – thank you so much to all that renewed their membership with Post 663, our loyal PUFL members, and a big welcome to all our new members! Our final number is 234 members in good standing, just 13 short of our Department of Iowa assigned goal of 247. The 2027 membership year kicked off on July 1, and many of you have already paid your dues, thank you. As we begin a new year, please reach out if you have questions about membership years, dues, or your status. We are grateful to each of you for your continued support of Post 663.

Peg Mullen, Membership Chair Post 663

From the 1st Vice

During the August Dinner/Meeting, we will have Larry Wright from the Iowa Gold Star Museum, Camp Dodge as a guest speaker. Many Thanks to Mike Golightly for arranging this.

Jim Cade, Post 663 1st Vice

From the 2nd Vice

Hello Post 663! Samples of the hidden drop ceiling were taken by Hawkeye Environmental and are confirmed to be asbestos free. Asbestos abatement would have been a significant expense, so I'm very excited by this. Hawkeye Environmental would not accept payment and later notified the Post that they would not be billing us. We received positive feedback from community members regarding the display case in the Urbandale Public Library.

Nichole McDowell, 2nd Vice Post 663



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Flags for Sale:

American Legion Post 663 sells new flags in three sizes 3X5 - \$30.00, 4X6 -\$40.00, 5X8 -\$50.00 The Post keeps several in stock and by purchasing through the Post you don't have to deal with shipping delays or wait times!

Community Events

The Hall remains open every weekday from 8 am to 1030 am for Coffee, Conversation, & Continuing Education.

AUGUST 28, 6 am - 3pm, Post 663 Rummage/Garage Sale at the Post! Have too much stuff? Need to downsize? Pay \$10 for a table inside Post 663 during our Post 663 Rummage Sale. Only 20 tables are available. Please call 515-954-8584 to reserve tables - leave message if no answer. Tables are reserved on a first come, first serve basis. All proceeds are yours to keep. Unsold items may be left at the Post and we will arrange for the DAV thrift store to collect as donations. Flyers will be made to post about town as well as promoted on social media.

Veteran Coffee Social at the VA Main Campus: Coffee and Snacks provided, held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month, 8:30 am- 10:00 am in the Main Lobby by the Canteen on the VA Main Campus (3600 30th St, DSM)

Want to see an event included? Talk to Nichole McDowell at 515-729-4600 or legionpost663@gmail.com

Reminders & Requests

Newsletter: The Post will have two methods of distribution - mailed & emailed. If you know a fellow Post member who does not receive the newsletter, please direct them to Nichole McDowell (515-729-4600 or legionpost663@gmail.com).

Social Media: The Post has a Facebook presence in the following ways: A private group specifically for members of Post 663 and a public page that represents the post. The intent of the public page is to assist in recruitment efforts as well as engage with the community. The Private Group is accessible by clicking [here](#) and the Public Page is accessible by clicking [here](#).