



February 2023 Newsletter

American Legion Urbandale Post 663

6805 Douglas Avenue

Urbandale IA 50322

Phone: 515-278-8940

**OFFICERS LIST**

|                     |                |              |                  |                |              |
|---------------------|----------------|--------------|------------------|----------------|--------------|
| Commander           | Mike Knight    | 515-556-9239 | Chaplain         | Rob Stark      | 515-979-2925 |
| 1st Vice            | Connie Gregory | 515-210-8158 | Finance Officer  | Ted Rutherford | 515-240-0241 |
| 2nd Vice            | Larry Draughn  | 515-238-1856 | Sgt-At-Arms      | Mark Dreckman  | 515-491-8973 |
| Adjutant            | Dan Good       | 515-444-1701 | Membership       | Peg Mullen     | 515-205-6853 |
| Historian           |                |              | Facility Manager | Fred Gagen     | 515-669-2612 |
| Service Officer     | Robert Morris  | 515-278-4231 | Bldg. Rental     |                |              |
| Auxiliary President | Joann Hotovec  | 515-306-1926 |                  |                |              |

[WWW.POST663.ORG](http://WWW.POST663.ORG)

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

**From the Desk of the Commander:**

Joann Hotovec, Auxiliary President Urbandale Unit 663

**Commanders Comments:**

Fellow Legionnaires, on Saturday, February 18<sup>th</sup> 2023 from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM American Legion Post 663 and VFW Post 9668 will conduct a food drive located at 6805 Douglas Ave, Urbandale, Iowa. Items needed are Meals in a can, canned fruits, peanut butter, tuna and canned meats, cereal, pasta sauce, and personal hygiene products. Also, cash donations and checks made out to Urbandale Food Pantry will be gladly accepted.

We are looking for volunteers to help with the acceptance of items during the food drive. The shifts are from 10 AM to 12 PM, 12 PM to 2 PM and 2 PM until 4 PM. Boy Scouts are more than welcomed to help with this project. This is another example of Veterans helping Veterans and people from the local community.

On January 17<sup>th</sup>, Ted Rutherford and I met with Economic Development Director Aaron Dejong in response to a city council vote to make \$1.5 million dollars available for revitalization of its historical downtown district. The money is to strategically assist property owners to make lasting improvements to real estate, prepare property for reinvestment, and encourage business expansion in the area.

Our goal is to make the building more attractive and of better use to our group and the community. Updates will follow as they come in.

Commander Post #663 Michael Knight

**Urbandale Auxiliary Unit 663:**

I want to extend an invitation for our Valentine's Party on Thursday, February 16. Social will be at 5:30 and dinner at 6 pm. The menu includes chips and salsa, beef and cheese enchiladas, rice and refried beans.

And the Auxiliary will provide a delicious dessert.

We would like reservations, by February 13th. You can call me or text me at 515-306-1926. Or you can email me at hotovec@centurylink.net .The charge is \$10 per person.

The Auxiliary will have their next meeting on February 28 at 1pm at the Legion Hall.

**Membership Report:**

As of the beginning of February, we have 260 members in good standing at our Post. We still have a few members renewing their 2023 membership, thank you. Unfortunately, we have approximately 30 members or so that have not renewed yet, that were members in 2022. If you have questions or concerns about renewing, please reach out. I would appreciate the opportunity to help address issues you may have regarding our Post, or the Legion in general. Our Post receives \$4.00 for every renewal, so membership renewals are critical to maintaining our ongoing efforts in support of local veterans, and community activities. I do want to thank those of you that donated extra dollars to help sponsor some of our more senior members, very much appreciated.

Peg Mullen, Membership chairperson  
rpusn20@gmail.com

**From Frist Vice:**

This will be my article with updates next month.

I have been working closely with Kathy on our new updated website. I have sent an email to her asking for information about knowing how many people are viewing the website and will be adding additional information on a monthly basis after the Officers meetings.

Right now the website has numerous activities such as the Christmas bags that were put together and delivered, meetings/meals, State Fair parade, and Honor Guards doing the National Anthem at Urbandale High School during home games.

Please take the time to look at the website. Type in the search line: [urbandaleamericanlegion.org](http://urbandaleamericanlegion.org)

Connie Gregory

First Vice Post 663

**Chili Dinner: A Big Thank You to**

Everyone that attended the Chili Dinner at the Post on January 21st.



**URBANDALE POST 663  
6805 DOUGLAS AVENUE  
Urbandale IA 50322**

**Officer's Meeting First Thursday  
of the Month @ the Post**

**February 16th Valentine Dinner,  
by American Legion Auxiliary  
5:30 PM Social - Dinner 6:00  
PM. \$10.00. Advanced  
reservations are required by  
February 13<sup>th</sup> call or text Joann  
Hotovec 515-306-1926 or email  
your reservation by Monday  
February 13<sup>th</sup> to:  
hotovec@Centurylink.net**

**February 14, Valentine's Day  
February 16, Valentine's Dinner  
by American Legion Auxiliary  
February 20, President's Day  
February 22, Ash Wednesday  
March 12, Daylight Savings Time  
begins  
March 17, St Patrick's Day  
March 20, First Day of Spring**

**\*\*\* Perform Buddy Checks \*\*\***

Don't forget to check in with a buddy this month. A call, text or email to a fellow veteran can mean a great deal.

Check in with older veterans in your communities to make sure they have the supplies they need, are feeling healthy and help them acquire the resources they need. Of course, Buddy Checks can be done with phone calls and emails so as not to risk spreading or contracting coronavirus.

**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.**