



American Legion Urbandale Post 663



February 2026

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1 <sup>st</sup> Vice	Jim Cade	515-205-7054
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice (Comms)	Nichole McDowell	515-729-4600 or 515-850-7348 <a href="mailto:namcdowell2@gmail.com">namcdowell2@gmail.com</a>
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Membership	Peg Mullen	515-205-6853
Auxiliary President	Joann Hotovec	515-306-1926
Chaplain	Rob Stark	515-979-2925
Finance Officer	Don Swan	515-710-5350
Sgt-At-Arms	Larry Draughn	515-254-0805
Building Rental	Nichole McDowell	515-729-4600
Post Contact Info Post Website Post FB Group Post FB Page	6805 Douglas Ave Urbandale IA 50322	515-278-8940 <a href="http://www.urbandaleamericanlegion.org">http://www.urbandaleamericanlegion.org</a> <a href="https://www.facebook.com/groups/1613927332248092">https://www.facebook.com/groups/1613927332248092</a> <a href="https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61583540094669">https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61583540094669</a>

**FEBRUARY DINNER MEETING RESERVATION - Please RSVP to Peg Mullen by Tuesday, February 17, 2026. RSVPs may be made through Peg's cell phone at 515-205-6853 or to the Post email [legionpost663@gmail.com](mailto:legionpost663@gmail.com). February's dinner will be hosted by the Auxiliary. Julie Sieck from the Iowa Veterans Cemetery will be presenting during the meeting.**





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**“Where liberty dwells, there is my country.” Benjamin Franklin**

### **From the Desk of the Commander**

Good day, Post 663!

First, I want to thank everyone who attended January's dinner meeting. I was not feeling well (again---very frustrating!), so I stayed home. I am hopeful that I will stay healthy for the rest of the year, so I can join all of you for those dinner meetings! Additionally, I want to thank 1st Vice Jim Cade and Membership Chair Peg Mullen to step in and run the meeting. On another topic, Puxatawny Phil saw his shadow, which means six more weeks of winter, however, the forecast is predicted to be better than that for, at least, the next two weeks. Peg Mullen went to a meeting to discuss ideas for another Community Party this summer. I won't steal her thunder, but looks like we'll be a part of it again this year!

As we rapidly approach the Lenten Season, I am reminded that this is the time God's only Son entered into the desert for forty days. Why is that significant? It's significant, because His fasting and prayer prepared Him for the trials He would endure soon after His exit from the desert. For us, Lent is a time for reflection, refocus on what is TRULY important and increase our prayer time with God, Jesus and the Trinity. My prayer for all of you, your family and friends, is that those forty days (beginning on 18 February with Ash Wednesday) is your opportunity to do just that---reflect, pray and prepare for that glorious Easter Day!

See you at supper!

**Rob Stark, Commander Post 663**

### **Urbandale Auxiliary**

The Auxiliary was happy to have Whitney Smith McIntosh as our guest speaker at our January meeting. She gave an inspiring talk about suicide among Veterans and what we can do to help. At our meeting, we also voted to donate \$40 to the Auxiliary Emergency Fund. I will take a check to the Conference.

As most of you know, the week before Valentine's Day is designated as the National Salute to Veteran Patients. We will serve goodies to the South Des Moines VA Clinic on Friday, February 13. On February 19 our Auxiliary will provide the dinner to be served at the Legion Hall for the Legion members and their guests.

**Joann Hotovec, Auxiliary President Unit 663**



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### From the Adjutant

Welcome to February 2026! The year is starting out as busy as ever.

Veterans Day at the Capitol was held on January 21, 2026. Details of the event can be found at <https://ialegion.org/legislative>

Holt Plumbing, Heating, Cooling, & Electrical sponsored the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Military Appreciation Night with the Iowa Wild was held on Saturday, January 31, 2026. Most of you missed a fast-paced thrilling hockey game that ended with the Wild winning in a "Shootout". I might add that it was free admission for veterans & families, box seating at ice level behind the goal, free catered food, free beverages and a lot of camaraderie.

The Department of Iowa Mid-Winter Conference is scheduled for February 12-15, 2026. For information about the conference, please visit the Department website: <https://ialegion.org/midwinter> Hopefully some of you will choose to attend.

As in past newsletter articles, I'm going to remind all that there are still many volunteer opportunities available to you and please document your many volunteer hours (What, Where, When, & How many hours). Any type of written documentation will do. When the time comes, I'll ask you to submit the information to me for inclusion in the Consolidated Post Report.

For God and Country,

**Stephen Smith, Post 663 Adjutant**

### From the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice/Comms

Hello Post 663! February has remained fairly uneventful for me thus far and I'm hopeful it remains that way! Maggie is keeping me busy with gymnastics competitions (both in and out of state), but I'd rather have a busy teenager than a bored one.

While I don't have a lot of exciting happenings on the front end to share, I can say there are things happening behind the scenes that allow me the opportunity to continue to work towards a revitalization of the Hall. Overall feedback from the City of Urbandale indicated that they are willing to work with us and want to see the Hall restored back to its former glory of a community gathering place.

Please continue to let me know of any community events in the coming months that I can publish in the newsletter - we'd love to be able to support and attend events both as individuals and a Post!



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And as always, please feel free to reach out to me with any questions, concerns, or need for assistance that you may have!

**Nichole McDowell, 2nd Vice Post 663**

### **February Post Meeting/Dinner**

The Post's January meeting will be held on Thursday, February 19, at 6:00 with cocktail/social beginning at 5:30. Please RSVP asap to Peg Mullen (515-205-6853 or [legionpost663@gmail.com](mailto:legionpost663@gmail.com)). February's dinner is being hosted by the Auxiliary.

Julie Sieck from Iowa Veterans Cemetery will present a program at our February 19th dinner meeting

### **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.

### **Community Events**

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

Jerry Talerico will be returning as our Guest Chef in March.

### **Reminders & Requests**

**Newsletter:** The Post will have two methods of distribution - mailed & emailed. The lowest cost option for our Post is to receive the newsletter by email. 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](mailto:legionpost663@gmail.com)). We have heard of a few members of the Post and Auxiliary who have found their newsletters in spam or junk folders - it never hurts to check there if you think you've been left off the list!

**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](#).

**Hall Rental:** To rent the Legion Hall, please contact Nichole McDowell at 515-729-4600. She and Larry Draughn will be handling rentals at this time.