



**American Legion Urbandale Post 663**

**January 2025**

**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 /Membership	Steve Smith	515-745-7236			
Service officer	Robert Morris	515-278-4231			
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:**

The Dinner/Meeting of the 19th of December was a great success, including a large turnout. I want to thank all of those volunteers that were involved with preparing the chicken along with all of you who brought a side dish or dessert from home.

I am very happy to report to you that our Quarterly Food Drive for the past year has been very productive. The Food Drive takes place right here at the Post and lasts from 10 AM to 2 PM on a Saturday once a quarter. Our volunteers consist of VFW Post Members and Legion Post Members. The total for the year of 2024 was (835 lbs. of food) and a total of (\$1,720.00 in cash). Once this is collected it is transported to the Urbandale Food Pantry. American Legion Post 663 and VFW Post 9668 have become one of the largest supporters of the Urbandale Food Pantry in recent years. This is a reminder that for the month of January and the month of February Post 663 will not have a Dinner/Meeting or an Officers Meeting. This was voted on overwhelmingly based on past weather conditions during these two months. If you feel you would like to help the Post, we are currently looking for volunteers to assist our Adjutant in keeping track of Membership. We would like to set up a Membership Team consisting of two or more people sharing the responsibility. In this way it eliminates one person from being overwhelmed and becoming burned out. If you are interested or have questions please contact me at:

(msgtknight1946@msn.com) or text me at (515-556-9239) Commander Michael Knight

**Michael Knight Post #663 Commander  
msgtknight1946@msn.com**

**Urbandale Auxiliary Unit #663:**

Happy New Year to each of you from the Auxiliary. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, January 28 at 1pm at the Legion Hall. Our January project is to help our Auxiliary President, Verlinda Prior who is asking for socks for our Veterans. I am to bring them to our Mid-Winter convention on February 14-16, so we have plenty of time to accomplish this. She is asking for new crew and tube socks size 8-12 in white, black or grey. If you cannot attend our next meeting and would like to help, just give me a call. Thank you.

**Joann Hotovec, President American Legion Auxiliary, #663**

**THE ADJUTANT / Membership**

By now, you have finished off the remnants of Christmas Dinner and leftover "stuff" from New Year's Eve parties. Several of you are already involved in a host of 2025 volunteer duties and others of you are thinking about something that you could do to help out our neighbors and friends that might need a little uplifting. All I ask is that you keep some kind of a record of the hours spent so I can include them in our annual Post Data Report. The Fifth Grade Essay Contest is in the last stage of completion. We have a winner that is being forwarded to the District Six coordinator for consideration there as well as our local contest. I won't publish the winners' names until the letters have been sent out to the schools. My final comments are directed towards Membership. According to the latest report from our past Membership Chairman, we have made great strides towards obtaining our goal of 275 members in good standing as established by the Department of Iowa. But we're not there yet. If you know of anyone that hasn't yet paid for their membership for this year or any potential new members, please direct them to our website or contact any of the officers for assistance. Thanks for reading to the end. Wishing you all a prosperous 2025.

**Steve Smith, Post #663 Adjutant**



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

**Our post is asking for help in identifying delegates for our post to sponsor Boys State 2025 at Camp Dodge June 22-27.**

**Boys State is a 5-day resident camp event focusing on Leadership, Civics, and Character Development. Here are the details:**

- **Delegates must be Juniors this school year (2024-2025) and be of good moral character**
- **Service Officer (Robert Morris) will be responsible to submit our delegates to State Headquarters. As part of that submission process, an email address (that is regularly monitored by the Delegate) will be required to be provided to the Service Officer**
- **Starting on January 15TH, 2025, the State Headquarters will use the email from above to send a registration link to the Delegate.**
- **We can enter Delegates up to April 1. All delegates must be registered by that time.**
- **Once the delegate completes the registration link, we will get invoiced the \$400 fee per delegate.**

**Please get any delegate names and emails to Robert Morris at [robertmorris4710@gmail.com](mailto:robertmorris4710@gmail.com)**

### **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.**

### **Dates to Remember Officer's**

#### **No Offices Meeting in January or February 2025**

#### **No Dinner/Meeting January or February 2025**

**January 16, Persian Gulf War (1991)**

**January 20, Martin Luther King Jr Day**

**January 27, Vietnam peace accord (1973)**

**January 28 US-Vietnam Cease-Fire (1973)**

**February 1, National Freedom Day**

**February 12 Lincoln's Birthday**

**February 14, Valentines Day**

**February 15, Sinking of USS Maine**

**February 17, Washington's Birthday**

**February 23, Flag Raised on Iwo Jima**

**March 5, Ash Wednesday**

**March 9, Daylight Saving Time**