



American Legion Urbandale Post 663

January 2026

Commander	Rob Stark	515-979-2925
1 st Vice	Jim Cade	515-205-7054
2 nd Vice (Comms)	Nichole McDowell	515-729-4600 or 515-850-7348 namcdowell2@gmail.com
Adjutant	Stephen Smith	515-745-7236 ss49er@hotmail.com
Service Officer	OPEN	
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	Dennis Appelhons	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

JANUARY DINNER MEETING RESERVATION - Please RSVP to Peg Mullen by AS SOON AS POSSIBLE! RSVPS may be made through Peg's cell phone at 515-205-6853 or to the Post email legionpost663@gmail.com. January's dinner will be hosted by the Starks with dessert provided by the Auxiliary.





American Legion Urbandale Post 663

"Don't change yourself for anyone, but always try to be the best version of yourself you can be." Nichole McDowell to her kids. Surely they listened.

From the Desk of the Commander

Happy New Year, Post 663!

I'm back from vacation, out of the hospital and putting away Christmas decorations until later this year. I am forecasting 2026 to be a great year for our post! Lots of items on the schedule, we will continue to be visible in our Urbandale community, more opportunities for fundraising and of course, all to help Veterans and their families. With the exception of July, we are planning to have dinner meetings EVERY 3rd Thursday of the month throughout the year. Please mark your calendars, as these dinner-meetings are a terrific way to keep up with what our post is doing, enjoy a night out with good food and visit with friends!

I want to close with another heartfelt "thank you" to Don and Jan Cruikshank for the many years of selfless service they have given Post 663, the Urbandale community and Veterans around our state. They are a rare find, always acting on behalf of Veterans everywhere, coordinating people, places & logistics and never seeking accolades for themselves. While they will still be at meetings, I want them to know they will be missed, thought of often and genuinely loved for all they have accomplished---thank you two for the example!

Rob Stark, Commander Post 663

Urbandale Auxiliary

Happy New Year to each of you. Our next Auxiliary meeting will be January 27 at 1pm at the Legion Hall. The day will also be our January project as Whitney Smith-McIntosh will be our guest speaker. She is District Commander for the 6th District. Please make every attempt to attend. Thank you in advance for all that you will do this coming year.

Joann Hotovec, Auxiliary President Unit 663

From the Membership Chair

Thanks to those of you that paid your 2026 dues at the beginning of the year. I do apologize for the late mailing of membership cards and late cashing of those checks – the Post is working with the USPS and the VFW on some mail delivery issues...many of your renewals were misdirected and then returned, resulting in late delivery to our Post. If you have not yet renewed for 2026, your membership is in a suspended status. We are still around 40 membership renewals short of our goal, so please renew now if you are able to do so. Thank you for your continued support of Post 663.

Peg Mullen, Membership Chair Post 663



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From the 2nd Vice/Comms

My sincere apologies for the tardiness of the January newsletter - New Year's Day shifted the officers' meeting by a week which would have been fine had I not been in San Antonio with my daughter for gymnastics. It's always a treat to be back in San Antonio as I spent a decent amount of time at Ft. Sam.

Nichole McDowell, 2nd Vice Post 663

January Post Meeting/Dinner

The Post's January meeting will be held on Thursday, January 15, at 6:00 with cocktail/social beginning at 5:30. Please RSVP asap to Peg Mullen (515-205-6853 or legionpost663@gmail.com). January's dinner is being hosted by the Starks with desserts provided by the Auxiliary.

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

None on Legion Radar at this time.

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). 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](#).