



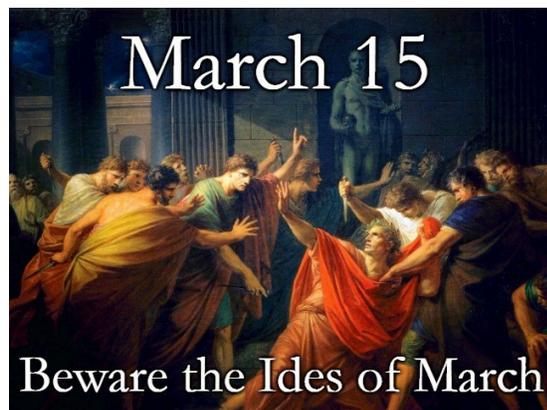
American Legion Urbandale Post 663



March 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	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	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 http://www.urbandaleamericanlegion.org https://www.facebook.com/groups/1613927332248092 https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61583540094669

MARCH DINNER MEETING RESERVATION - Please RSVP to Peg Mullen by Tuesday, March 17, 2026. RSVPS may be made through Peg’s cell phone at 515-205-6853 or to the Post email legionpost663@gmail.com. March’s Meal is spaghetti, meatballs, garlic bread, and salad.





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“Freedom is nothing else but a chance to be better.” - Albert Camus

From the Desk of the Commander

I hope this note finds all of you well! It will come to no surprise to any of you that we, as a nation, are again kinetically engaged in defending our interests overseas. Regardless of which side of the aisle you side, the proverbial train has left the station and we must now support our military brothers and sisters, who quite honestly, will become veterans themselves.

Obviously, we as the Urbandale American Legion can support in many different ways, but the immediate need is that of prayers. Prayers for safety, security, divine protection and courage under fire. Our warriors aren't the only ones who are in need of prayer. Families, friends and co-workers also need prayers for strength, hope and reduction of stress caused by the deployment. Additionally, we need to pray for a speedy end to hostilities and immediate return of their loved one. This is not a one and done request, so please keep all in your daily prayers!

The Board of Officers remain busy coordinating annual activities, programs for dinner meetings, keeping our digital footprint alive and many other items. As not to steal their thunder, they will go into more depth on what they are working on. Looking forward to seeing you at supper!

Rob Stark, Commander Post 663

Urbandale Auxiliary

Our Auxiliary helped 149 people at the VA South Side Clinic on February 14. They seemed very happy with our goodies. Some of us attended the Mid-Winter Conference at the Airport Holiday Inn on February 14. We heard reports from all the committees and met women from across the state. Our time was well spent. Our Auxiliary hosted the Legion Dinner on February 19. I'm sorry that the weather didn't cooperate and there was a small group attending. Many thanks to Nancy Upton for her food preparation.

Joann Hotovec, Auxiliary President Unit 663

From the Adjutant

Welcome to March 2026! This month is when the required reports get mailed out from the Department.

I attended The Department of Iowa Mid-Winter Conference on the weekend of February 13 – 15, 2026. There were several training and informational sessions that covered topics such as insurance, Post legal Issues, member discipline, and Membership. The National Commander, Dan K. Wiley, attended and spoke to the group. Commander Wiley emphasized that all levels of



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the American Legion should put extra effort into the Three C's" communications, Community, and Camaraderie. If you've never attended any of the conferences, you should give it a try.

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

For God and Country,

Stephen Smith, Post 663 Adjutant

From the Membership Chair

Thank you to those that have paid their 2026 dues, we appreciate your continued support to our Post. If you have not paid for 2026 yet, please do so very soon. Our Post is involved in several events in our community, and we also support programs within the American Legion organization.

Most of these initiatives involve a financial commitment of some sort, which is where your membership dues becomes vital to our continued success. We want to continue to assist veterans, promote the Legion, participate in citizenship programs and care for our aging Post 663 building...but each of those involve financial support.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns about your membership, I am happy to assist. Thank you.

Peg Mullen, Membership Chair Post 663

From the 2nd Vice/Comms

Hello Post 663! My heart has been heavy with the loss of our servicemembers from the 103rd Sustainment Command. In addition to the grief experienced firsthand by their families, those who remain in service overseas are still grieving and may grapple with survivor's guilt upon return to the states.

Thus, I am reminded of the importance of our Legion Hall and our mission to connect with other veterans. Military service is a unique experience and who better to support veterans in need than other veterans. I'd ask that all of us continue to ponder how we can best support those veterans coming home.

Nichole McDowell, 2nd Vice Post 663

March Post Meeting/Dinner



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The Post's January meeting will be held on Thursday, March 19, at 6:00 with cocktail/social beginning at 5:30. Please RSVP to Peg Mullen (515-205-6853 or legionpost663@gmail.com). March's meal will be spaghetti, meatballs, garlic bread, and salad.

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.

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. 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](#).

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.