



**American Legion Urbandale Post 663**

**September 2023**

**6805 Douglas Avenue**

**Urbandale IA 50322**

**For further information 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  | Don Swan        | 515-710-5350 |
| 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     | VFW Rental Team | 515-681-9663 |
| Auxiliary President | Joann Hotovec  | 515-306-1926 |                  |                 |              |

[www.urbandaleamericanlegion.org](http://www.urbandaleamericanlegion.org)

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

**Commanders Comments:**

**From the Desk of the Commander:**

August was a very busy month with the Iowa State Fair, the Urbandale Food Drive, and our Monthly Dinner/Meeting.

First of all, the Iowa State Fair was a big success as ever. We had three vehicles in the Veterans Day Parade. Two of the vehicles were Corvette convertibles and the third was a Mustang convertible. I was in the first followed by Larry Draughn and in the third was Joann Hotovec and Diane Holcomb.

When our three vehicles drove by the reviewing stand, American Legion Post 663 and each of our names were broadcasted over the loud speakers, which gave each of us a proud moment representing Post 663.

The Quarterly Food Drive was a big success with much-needed food, supplies, and of course, money. I want to give a big “Thank you” to everyone who contributed to this event.

The Monthly Dinner/Meeting was a wonderful time to get together and share good stories with fellow Legionnaires. Peg Mullen and Ron Schooley provided the main course and Nancy Upton provided desserts. Nice job to all of them!!!!

Post 663 hosted a meeting this month with the Urbandale Planning Committee and 25 city business owners to discuss how the Federal grant that the city of Urbandale has received will be used to enhance the city in the future.

Please try and attend our next Dinner/Meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> of September. We will have Pulled Pork and beans and ice cream for dessert. Please RSVP  
Commander Michael Knight (515-556-9239) Call or TEXT.

**Commander Michael Knight Post #663**

**Membership Report:**

The 2024 membership year is in full swing. For those of you that have paid your dues already, much appreciated. For those that have not paid yet -- an update on the cost of our dues. The American Legion Department of Iowa will raise their portion of your membership dues from

\$15.50 to \$20.50 effective January 1, 2024. As I've shared previously, right now Post 663 receives \$4.00 for every \$40.00 membership paid. As a result of the increase at the State level, the Post 663 Officers voted to increase our 2024 membership dues to \$45.00 beginning on January 1, 2024. Doing so will allow us to continue to receive \$4.00 for every membership renewal. So - paying before December 31, 2023 at the \$40.00 rate is in your best interest. Any questions or concerns, please let me know. Thank you.

Peg Mullen, Membership chairperson  
[rpush20@gmail.com](mailto:rpush20@gmail.com)

**Urbandale Auxiliary Unit 663:**

The Auxiliary is accepting dues for 2024. We are at 75% of our goal and have 3 wonderful new members. We have an incentive to have everyone paid before Veterans Day on Nov 11. All units that have reached their goal will have a chance to win money prizes.

Our project for Sept is to help hand out backpacks filled with school supplies to the children attending Stand Down for Homeless Veterans on Sept 15, 16, and 17 in downtown Des Moines.

Our next meeting will be Sept 26 at 1pm at the Legion Hall.

Joann Hotovec, President American Legion Auxiliary, Urbandale Unit #663

**Service Officer:**

**Post 663 is performing the flag presentation for Friday night football games for Urbandale High home games. Dates and times are: Sept 1, Sept 8, Sept 22, Sept 29, Oct 20**

**NOTE 7:30 GAME TIME**

**Please contact Robert Morris at 515-278-4231 or at [robertmorris4710@gmail.com](mailto:robertmorris4710@gmail.com) for more information or to sign up. Robert Morris, Service Officer**



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

## **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.**

### **September 21st Dinner Menu:**

**Pulled Pork sandwiches from Butts and Bunns with Pork and Beans and ice cream for dessert. We are asking a donation of \$10.00.**

**Please RSVP to Mike Knight at 515-556-9239 (Text or Call) Dinner 6:00 PM..**

## **Greetings Legionnaires!**

We continue to stay involved in the community of Urbandale and Des Moines. The Iowa State Fair was a huge success with the Auxiliary participating this year. We have had our monthly meeting with a summer picnic theme and even had Fat Boy Ice Cream Sandwiches!

I was in Phoenix AZ for the 76th National Women's Army Corps Convention from August 2-7 in the hottest days I have ever been in. The average temperature was 110 degrees. I was re-elected as National First Vice President. We had over 30 NEW members present for this convention. Everyone was cheering when they all stood up as First-timers. I want to say Thank

You to this American Legion Post 663, for your support to the Officers that serve and make the decisions. Thank You to Peg Mullen for her dedication to our membership. You are the Cream of the Crop. The website continues to be an asset to our presence in the community, the state, and even at the National level. Salute Post 663!

Connie Gregory First Vice Commander  
chapggregory@gmail.com

## **Service Officer:**

**Questions or concerns about getting enrolled** in the VA System or questions about compensation.

qualifications, the VA Hospital or just how to get your DD-214, Please call your Post 663 Service Officer (Robert Morris at 515-278-4231)

\*\*\* **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.

## **Dates to Remember:**

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

**September 4, Labor Day**

**September 11, Patriot Day**

**September 15, POW/MIA Recognition Day**

**September 16, Rosh Hashanah**

**September 18, Air Force Birthday 1947**

**September 21, Dinner/Meeting Happy Hour @ 5:30 PM Dinner @ 6:00 PM**

**September 23, First day of Autumn**

**September 25, Yon Kippur**

**October 9, Columbus Day**

**October 13, Navy Birthday 1775**