

# Iowa AMVET

Online Edition

DEPARTMENT OF IOWA

March 2018  
Volume 3, Issue 2

## Commander's Communique

January and February have been busy with construction for our own Post 107. Our Post received a \$20,000 grant to assist with the addition onto our building. The cold weather allowed us to get quite a bit of interior work done in anticipation of the upcoming SEC meeting. I am really excited to show off what we have done to our building. In March I had the opportunity to attend meetings in Washington DC and met with each of our Iowa Congressional delegation to discuss important issues related to our Veterans. The Sons of AMVETS do an outstanding job during this week in making AMVETS seen and heard. It was an honor to participate with AMVETS from across the Country in laying a wreath at the WWII, Korean, and Vietnam Memorials.

On Friday March 23<sup>rd</sup>,  
Convention Corporation

President Gary Golson will host an important meeting for all organizations to make their needs known for the upcoming AMVETS State Convention. I cannot attend, however I have made my requests available to Adjutant Mary Van Horn who will be attending in my absence. See below for further info.

Sadly we lost another PDC "Bud" Fosse from Cedar Falls Post 49. I have never had the pleasure of meeting the man, but have heard nothing but the many great things he did for our organization.

This newsletter also has additional information concerning the upcoming SEC and a flyer regarding my recognition dinner. Hope to see many of you at the SEC meeting on April 22nd as we welcome the 4<sup>th</sup> National District Commander Bob Green to Iowa.

**Of special note, committee meetings on Saturday April 21<sup>st</sup> will not start until 1PM.**

AMVETS Pins honoring the three Iowa women killed during the War on Terror are still available through the Service Foundation. Additional pins will also be available at the upcoming SEC meeting.

*Kevin Reece*  
Dept Commander

Serving All Veterans

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### Special points of interest:

- Pre-Convention Meeting
- Spring SEC Meetings
- Commander's Recognition Dinner

### Pre-Convention Planning Meeting

A Pre-Convention Planning meeting will be held on Friday March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 3PM at the Best Western Regency Inn located at 3303 Center St, Marshalltown Iowa. All subordinate organizations should plan to have at least one representative at this meeting to ensure your

needs are met for the upcoming State Convention to be held on June 8-10, 2018 at this hotel. Banquet planning and Memorial Service planning will also be a part of this meeting. Please bring any ideas your organization would like to see incorporated into this

Convention. Veterans from the Iowa Veterans Home have already been invited to attend the Sons BBQ planned for Friday evening June 8<sup>th</sup>. Any additional requests should be brought to this meeting.

## Commanders Recognition Dinner

The Spring State Executive Committee meeting will be held at Richmond Post 107 in Richmond Iowa. On Saturday evening, there will be a Recognition Dinner for AMVETS State Commander Kevin Reece beginning with a social hour from 5-6PM. Dinner will be at 6PM. Special Guest for the evening will be 4th National District Commander Bob Green. Menu \$12.00 per person. Choice of Roast Pork Loin or Roast Beef Dinner, Mashed Potatoes , Green Bean Casserole , Roll/butter, and Cheesecake with assorted toppings . Indicate meat choice when making reservations.

Reservations by April 1, 2018 to:  
Kevin Reece  
1673 Hwy 1  
Washington Iowa 52353

**Dutch Country Inn - Kalona Iowa**  
phone: 319-656-3611  
**Hometown Inn & Suites - Washington Iowa**  
319-653-6621

**REMINDER**  
District Meetings  
Are Not to be  
Scheduled on SEC  
Weekends

## District Meeting Schedule

District 1	To Be Announced
District 2	To Be Announced
District 3	To Be Announced
District 4	To Be Announced
District 5	To Be Announced
District 6	To Be Announced
District 7	To Be Announced

## Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs

To better serve currently active military members, veterans, and families, the Iowa Department of Veterans affairs has created an event page on our website. There will no longer be a pdf, but instead a continuously updated, accurate webpage that will list events chronologically. Events can be printed from the page for physical postings if so desired. Along with this new event page, we have created a new event submission form. The information submitted on the form will be used to generate the events listing. Please check your event request for errors prior to submission. The new events list can be found here: <https://va.iowa.gov/events>. Additionally, it can be found by clicking the "Veterans Events" link on the Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs homepage. To submit an event, please fill out the submission form located here: <https://va.iowa.gov/contact/event>. Upon approval, the event will be posted on the events page.

### Special Note:

New State  
Directories will be  
available at the  
April SEC Meeting  
in Richmond.

Exec. Director  
*Clark Leckington*

## 2017 – 18 Scholarship Applications Available

The 2017-18 Scholarship Applications are now available on the website at [amvetsiowa.org](http://amvetsiowa.org) and copies are attached with this newsletter. Scholarship applications with the accompanying documentation must be returned no later than **April 1, 2018** to Scholarship Chair Don Shellenberger. Reminder to Post Commanders that you must make a recommendation for a recipient coming from your local Post and assist the applicant to ensure they submit all the requirements to be considered for the scholarship. We will award three \$2000 scholarships. A newly named scholarship will be awarded this year in the name of PDC Ed Gallagher who passed away two years ago and left a substantial bequest to the Department specifically for the awarding of a scholarship to enhance the opportunities for youth in Iowa.

### Program Reporting From 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Mike Darrow

We have started a new year for Program Reporting and Iowa has only 3 posts who have entered information in the online system. If you are struggling to get this info entered into the online system, please feel free to call me and I will assist you with it. Basically I need to know what the activity was, the number of volunteers, total hours of the volunteers, estimate of the mileage, whether there was any cost associated with the project and any monetary donations your Post received as a result. You may contact me by email at [miketrans67@gmail.com](mailto:miketrans67@gmail.com) or by phone at 563-613-0028. Program reporting is critical to maintaining our IRS non-profit status. Every post has done something through the year. Help me to help you get the credit you deserve.

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## Commander Reece's Project

Survivors Outreach Support is a program with the Iowa National Guard. It is a concept that does not receive federal funding and its non-profit support has dwindled, yet the need to maintain contact and support for the families of our fallen continues. Its purpose is to provide long term support and connection to the military for Families of the Fallen, for as long as they desire. SOS is able to connect Survivors with people and resources that can help throughout the spectrum of the grieving process. Services like support group facilitation, life skills, education, and grief counseling, and financial counseling are essential to our Survivors. An annual day of healing is tapered specifically to the Survivors Families in losses involving suicide. In addition, regional events are held throughout Iowa for Survivors Families to assist them in developing a support system network in their local. Currently SOS is providing services to 1362 Survivors of all branches throughout the State which include those families of fallen during the War on Terror. I ask each of you to consider a donation for this outstanding program. Please see the flyer attached with this newsletter for further info.



*Questions on  
Membership Call  
Executive Director  
Clark Leckington  
319-290-0901*

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## Upcoming & Ongoing Events

**Scholarship Applications** for the 2017-18 Iowa Department of AMVETS Scholarships are now available on the website [www.amvetsiowa.org](http://www.amvetsiowa.org) or by contacting the Scholarship Chair Don Shellenberger at 319-493-0607.

**Care Bears** are now available through Executive Director Clark Leckington at the Department Office. Bears are 14ö brown bears with an AMVETS Ribbon and can be purchased for \$6.

**State Commander Kevin Reece Recognition Dinner** Saturday evening April 21,, 2018 Richmond Post 107. Cocktail Hour 5-6 PM and Dinner by reservation 6PM. Reservations to Kevin Reece 1673 Hwy 1 Washington Iowa 52353. See article in newsletter.

## Veterans Trust

AMVETS Department of Iowa  
5826 Caldwell Rd  
Coggon Iowa 52218  
319-290-0901  
Executive Director  
Clark Leckington

[amvetsia@gmail.com](mailto:amvetsia@gmail.com)

EMAIL

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

WEBSITE

The Iowa Veterans Trust Fund was created by the Iowa General Assembly ten years ago and continues to provide assistance to veterans and their families who have household incomes below 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. The Trust Fund assists those veterans most in need in multiple areas of assistance from job training, medical, emergency vehicle and housing repair, as well as grants for providing honor guard services at veteran's funerals. Since 2007 when the fund was created, the Iowa Veterans Trust Fund has awarded \$2.8 million to Iowa veterans for assistance or in program funds for veterans' funerals. The Iowa Lottery provides \$2.5 million annually to the Iowa Veterans Trust Fund to assist in these services. During the 2017 year the Trust Fund provided just shy of a half million dollars in direct veteran support with another \$96,000 to veteran service organizations for Honor Guard Reimbursement. If you know of a veteran struggling with home or auto repairs, medical or dental not covered by VA, or other issues please refer them to their County Veteran Service Officer for Trust Fund help. The process starts at that level.

## Stay in the Know on IRS Requirements

Posts are required to file an important new form with IRS as of January 2014. Any change in Commanders or Finance Officers or other responsible parties must be reported on this form. This new form is IRS 8822-B Form. It is very simple to fill and basically tells IRS who to contact on behalf of your local Post. If you need a copy of the form, contact JA Barry Remington at 319-230-5381. ALL POSTS ARE REQUIRED TO FILE THEIR 990 FORM ANNUALLY AS WELL.

Serving Veterans

## Tidbits

**Care Bears** are now available through Executive Director Clark Leckington at the Department Office. Bears are 14" brown bears with an AMVETS Ribbon and can be purchased for \$6.

**Pre-Convention Planning Meeting** – March 23, 2018 3PM Best Western Regency Inn Marshalltown Iowa.

**Calling All Vietnam Veterans in the Des Moines Area** March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018 from 10a Vietnam Veterans Commemoration Event. Auditorium at the Main Campus, Des Moines VA Hospital 3600 30<sup>th</sup> Des Moines Iowa

**SEC Meeting** Richmond Post 107 April 21-22, 2018. Committee Meetings begin at 1:00PM with Finance Meeting, followed by Service Foundation at 2PM, then Membership.

**Riders Department of Iowa SEC Meeting** Saturday April 21, 2018 3:30PM Richmond Post 107

**Vietnam Veterans Recognition Day** May 7, 2018 11AM Iowa State Capitol. Free luncheon at AMVETS Post 2 following.

**State Convention** Marshalltown Best Western Regency Inn June 8-10, 2018 Marshalltown Iowa

**74<sup>th</sup> National Convention** Caribe Royal Olando FL August 7-14, 2018