

Ames Legion Family In Action

LOOK BACK AT 2013 IN THE AMERICAN LEGION

As Father Time leaves with the change in the calendar, we need to take a look back at 2013 in The American Legion before we forget what we have accomplished here in Ames and in Iowa.

The Post has been very active both inside the clubroom and in the community. We recognized over 200 students at Ames High for their academic excellence. Four young men from Ames and Gilbert were sponsored to 2013 Boys State and a Gilbert student was sponsored in the Oratorical contest.

Our Honor Guard presented final honors for 19 of our comrades during the year. They followed



the Legion Riders in the parade on Memorial Day and presented honors at the three Ames cemeteries.

Through the hard work of the clubroom staff, we donated almost \$2700 to the T.J. Reinsch Foundation. The annual golf outing made a \$600 donation to Easter Seals. We made a number of donations to other worthy causes here in Ames

from funds that were raised at bingo and poker games.

The Riders were active throughout the year. They also led the Memorial Day parade, helped with the Iowa Vets Home Spring Carnival, escorted the Freedom flight and donated to the Bataan Memorial Death March.

Through our dues we supported six Iowa staff members that work every day to help our comrades with claims to the VA. The Iowa American Legion co-sponsored a veterans Job Fair in August and continues to address needs with families of the Iowa National Guard.

2013 was a good year. We plan more in 2014.

Iowa Featured on Legion Website

Twice in the last two weeks, the new Iowa program to attract and recruit veterans for jobs in Iowa has been featured on The American Legion website.

Governor Branstad met with the Legion Economics staff to discuss the new program, Home Base Iowa and then to announce the website that was created to support that program. Links to those stories are in the careers section of the

website, www.legion.org. For those receiving this newsletter by e-mail, direct links are available [here](#) and [here](#)

The Home Base Iowa website is www.homebaseiowa.org. The Iowa American Legion has taken legislative positions to support efforts like these and applauds everyone involved in this effort, especially recognizing the bipartisan nature of the leadership.

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Post Commander Doug's Comments



Happy New Year! I hope that everyone had a fantastic, warm and relaxing December holiday.

It is hard to believe that it is 2014! The New Year brings with it new resolutions and self-made promises to make 2014 better than 2013. I hope that all of you are successful in making those resolutions a reality. I would also ask that you consider making, as one of your New Year's resolutions, a renewed effort to increase your participation at the Post. If you only have the time to stop in once or twice a month, it helps ensure the vitality of the Post and gives you the opportunity to renew acquaintances with old friends, meet new friends, and continue to support your fellow veterans and their families, the American Legion

in general and our own Post in particular.

One of the major concerns of the Post this time of year is membership. To put it bluntly, renewals are behind - far more so than in years past. There are probably many reasons that membership renewals are behind this year, and perhaps most of them valid. If you have not renewed your membership, please do so as quickly as possible. As a Post we value your membership, but more importantly, as a national organization your membership adds to the collective voice in Congress when the Legion promotes veterans benefits. And we need your voice more than ever before. The members of Congress, many of whom are not veterans, are looking at ways to cut the deficit and are looking at veterans and veteran's programs first. We need to collectively say no - that the benefits and programs that support veterans are a small expenditure compared to the sacrifice made, and that there are other areas and pro-

grams that should be looked at first. Membership means a strong voice for Congress to listen to. If you know a veteran who is eligible for membership, encourage them to join.

As many of you are aware, the Executive Board has had some spirited discussions over the past couple of months about a couple of different subjects. One of those subjects has been Poker. The long and the short of it is that participation in the monthly Texas Hold-Em Poker Tournaments has been decreasing to the point that it may no longer be cost effective to continue the event. After listening to all sides, we have decided to continue Poker for the remainder of the license year which ends in June. If Poker participation does not improve, we may need to cancel that monthly event.

In closing, I wish each of you a joyous and prosperous 2014 and hope that you will be able to visit the Post a little more often and participate in some of our wonderful Post events.

Junior Unit Activities

The Juniors put Magic Snowman Soup into bags with snowmen on them. It included hot chocolate, a hug & a kiss, candy cane and marshmallows along with the recipe. They handed one with a Christmas card to each veteran that attended the December dinner.

I heard very nice comments about them doing it. It was a surprise for those attending. And this was done by the 2 juniors that have been attending the meetings.

Christmas cards were also taken to the homeless shelter and to the VA hospital in Des Moines which will be handed out this week by the volunteer center.

The juniors will meet again January 5th at 2pm at the post. We will be working on something for Valentines Day and corsages for the Sixth District Junior Conference.

If you know of someone that would like to do a poppy poster or poppy corsage for the Junior conference please let me know & I will take them with me. As of now a date has not been set for the conference, but it should be soon.

If you have a junior that would like to attend or have any questions let me know. Joyce Elliott email: sde-jae@gmail.com or call 515-382-5768 and leave a message.

Thanks From Unit

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped package and deliver nuts, sell cookie cookbooks, call members for cookie donations and work at the nut sales and cookie fair.

We had donations of over 340 dozen cookies for the cookie fair. That was the biggest ever and helped make this a great year. The nut sale also had a good year with only a few bags left at the post when this was written..

Everyone's help is truly appreciated and enables the Unit to continue to serve veterans and their families with the income from these fundraisers. We couldn't do it without your help.

Squadron Commander Steve's Comments

I hope everyone has had a joyous holiday with their families, I know I have gotten to enjoy sharing the holidays with my family. The biscuit and gravy breakfast was well attended with 192 people being served. The proceeds will help fund our scholarship and Santa's helpers programs. Thanks to all that attended and helped.

The Sons have the February dinner if you are interested in helping please contact us. Also mid-winter conference is coming up February 14 - 16 in Des

Moines.

We have sent information on our scholarship to Ames and Gilbert high schools. If you know anyone interested tell them not to delay getting started as it may take sometime to get the discharge information.

We are at 75% of target and would like to be at 100% or better by mid winter. Let's keep that membership rolling in.

Till next month have a safe and happy new year, for God and Country.

New Post Members

Welcome to the following new Post Members:

James Bates, LaVonne Treadway, Sandra Treadway, Tracey Treadway, Stacey Carlson, Matthew Booth, Charles Coughlan, Andrea Gronau, Linda Furroughs, John Kost; Andrew McClain, John Sorbo, Jill Shilkatis, Janice Fryer, David Steel and James Burke.

Clubroom News

Happy New Year to all!! We hope that everyone had a joyous Holiday season. December was very busy in the Clubroom and we want to thank everyone for your continued support. Thanks to everyone who volunteered, we can't do it without you!! Congratulations to the winners of our ugly sweater contest. First Place was Cally Niess, Second Place was Scott Schoba, and Third went to Ryan Schaefer.

Bring it on!!! We want you to bring down your very best chili for our **Annual Chili Cook-off**. You may drop off your chili on the 31st or the morning of the 1st. We also encourage those not competing to bring a snack to share. There are prizes for first, second, and third place. As a bonus, the winner has bragging rights all year long. Of Course, all are welcome to come in and sample all the delicious entries and watch some football.

Don't forget that the post is the ultimate

Vets Day on the Hill

The American Legion of Iowa will participate at Legislative Day on Wednesday, January 22. Legion family members are asked to meet at Department Headquarters, 720 Lyon in Des Moines, at 8 a.m. for a short meeting and briefing concerning The American Legion's legislative priorities.

We will then move to the Capitol for a rally and meetings with our legislators. It is important that we have a strong turnout to achieve our legislative goals.

Legion Riders

The Legion Riders Chapter held their election of officers at their December meeting. New officers for 2014 are:

President:	Rick Hackett
Vice President:	John Valline
Secretary:	Bonita Deaton
Treasurer:	Steve Van KerckVoorde
State Advisor:	Everett Freel
Membership Chair:	Kelley Freel
Historians:	Paul Keigley Bonita Deaton
Sergeant of Arms:	Doug Sargent
Chaplain:	Keith Harvey
Road Captains:	Ken Wood Larry Eastman

The Legion Riders Chapter is making a donation to assist Illinois Legion Post

place to enjoy all the bowl game action. We encourage you to stop down and enjoy all the football games with us on our enormous TV.

Join Today!! The Clubroom will be having a Wii Bowling League. Bowling leagues are a great way to spend time with friends, co-workers or family. The cost is \$1 per person per week and bowlers must bowl 3 games per week. Stop into the post to sign up and get the full details.

Drop by and check out our Happenings! Find out about new drinks, appetizer specials and a whole lot more! Don't forget that the clubroom serves a great home-made meal every Wednesday; eat in or take it to go.

Wednesday, January 15 is Tenderloin Basket Night. Tenderloins are served for 5-6:30pm and as usual only \$6.00 served with all your favorite toppings and French fries. Stop in and enjoy one or get it to go!!!

Midwinter Conference

The annual Midwinter Conference will be held Feb 14-16 at the Airport Holiday Inn in Des Moines. This meeting is the annual training session for members for the Legion family. A schedule of events was given on [page 11](#) of the recent issue of the Iowa Legionnaire.

A children's activity center is available for those wanting to attend that have young children. Registration **MUST** be done in advance. See the Legionnaire for more details on registering.

100 in community recovery efforts from the devastating tornado damage in late November. After the meeting, members had a Christmas potluck and game of the Price is Right with motorcycle parts.

Weather permitting, there will be a short ride on New Year's day for those brave (crazy?) riders interested.

A scrapbook highlighting Legion Riders events is in the clubroom on the rack by the door.

New members are always welcome. Email ALR.Ames37@yahoo.com for more information.

CLUBROOM COUPON

**Any Tuesday in January
Present Coupon to get
2 drinks for the price of 1.
Cash Purchase Only**

Soup Contest



Do you make an awesome soup? Enter it into our contest. We are asking that our

members help with this fundraiser. All soups will be entered into the contest for a chance to win one of three places. All winners will receive a prize plus bragging rights for the whole year.

We ask that entrants have their soup at the post by 5:45pm on the 10th, and also ask that you bring whatever compliments your soup the best (i.e. crackers, cheese, bread). Everyone is welcome to enter!! Free will donation will entitle all members to enjoy all the many soups provided by contestants. All proceeds benefit the Building Remodel Campaign.

Electronic Delivery

There are links and e-mail addresses in articles of the Ames newsletter. Those links and addresses are active if you choose to receive the newsletter by e-mail. You will also find that the graphics are in color that way. Call the post 232-9870 and give us your e-mail address.

Kudo Korner



THANK YOU Well done to the following Post members this month:

Sandy Deacon, Kay MacVey and the La-

dies of the Auxiliary for setting a record for cookie donations; the SAL for a fantastic Biscuits & Gravy Breakfast; Sarah, Joan, Andrea, Callie, Ryan, Gen and Cade for superb service to the Post membership; John Schomaker and company for a record setting Burger Night; Santa (he always brings in a crowd); Jim Mott for his efforts with the Gun Cabinet, and finally; the members of American Legion Post 37 for being awesome - individually and collectively.

AMES POST NO. 37
 225 Main Street
 Ames, IA 50010

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NON PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE PAID Permit 147 Ames, IA

LOOK INSIDE FOR COUPON

JANUARY

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
 Find us on Facebook at Legion Family of Ames, IA Post 37		American	1 CHILI COOK-OFF BINGO	2 SOCIAL COMMITTEE 6:00	3 MUNCHIES NIGHT	4 STEAK DINNER 5:30—7:00
5 BINGO	6 LEGION RIDERS 6:30	7 TOASTED CHEESE TUESDAY AUXILIARY REGULAR 7:00	8 BINGO	9 LEGION BOARD 6:30 REGULAR 7:30	10 SOUP CONTEST AND DINNER 6-7:30	11
12 BINGO	13 BUILDING FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE	14 TOASTED CHEESE TUESDAY SAL REGULAR 6:30	15 TENDERLOIN 5:00-6:30 BINGO	16	17 MUNCHIES NIGHT	18
19 BINGO	20	21 TOASTED CHEESE TUESDAY	22 BINGO	23 OPERATIONS COMMITTEE 6:00	24 TEXAS HOLD-EM 7:00 MUNCHIES NIGHT	25
26 BINGO	27	28 TOASTED CHEESE TUESDAY 40&8	29 BINGO	30	31 MUNCHIES NIGHT	