

Ames Legion Family In Action

Commander Doug's Thoughts

May was a busy and rewarding month for the Post. A successful Mother's Day Brunch, along with a better than normal monthly Steak Dinner, Poppy Days and our annual Memorial Day lunch highlighted the many events held at the Post.

As we enter into the summer months, I would like to remind all our Post Family members to be extra careful and safety conscious. Statistics show that between Memorial Day Weekend and Labor Day Weekend more Americans are injured or killed in vehicle, water and outdoor activity accidents than the rest of the year combined. I encourage all of you to take the extra time needed when traveling or working or enjoying the outdoor activities that the warm weather allows, to ensure the safety of yourselves, your family and your friends. Please be careful – we want to keep seeing you at the Post!

This month we will also elect new officers for the Post, Unit and Squadron. Some members have volunteered to serve, or continue to serve our Post in several positions. There is still a need for members to fill several positions though, and although the



Nominating Committees have compiled a list of nominees for positions, we will still seek and accept nominations from the floor for each position at our monthly meetings. I strongly encourage and ask that you attend the Legion, Auxiliary or SAL June meetings to cast your vote and have your voice heard on whom you want to lead our Post in 2014 - 2015.

By now some of you have noticed that the City has closed 5th Street (behind the Post) for repairs. This makes gaining access to the YSS lot for additional parking at the Post almost impossible. With several other events planned for Main Street throughout the summer, including events marking the Sesquicentennial of Ames, parking for our members will be a significant challenge at times this summer. I ask that you consider those Post members who are handicapped or

less mobile than many and save the available parking spaces near the Post for them. It may mean parking a block or two away from the Post. We will be looking at options to provide transportation to the Post for some of the major events this summer, like Fourth of July, so members can

park downtown as close to the Post as possible given the number of people attending these events.

The City's Fourth of July Celebration is looking for veterans to be in the parade. If you are interested in marching/riding in the parade, especially in uniform, let us know at the Post. We will help make arrangements for you to do so. Stop by or call to sign up. The organization and planning of this year's parade is still underway, so please stop by the Post, call or e-mail us and let know if you are interested in being part of the parade. More details will be available mid-month.

Have a great month and I hope to see you at the Post!

New Post Members Welcomed

Welcome to the following new Post Members: Dennis Askland, Melvin Bell, Tom Hinders, Patrick Rouse, Richard Geil, Dan Walter, Fred Bunce, Richard Keigley, Victor Johnson, Jerry Martin, Richard Engen, Jerry Sowers, James Kenny, Charlie Ungs and Craig McEnany

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Update on Snedden Winter and Post Name & History

The August 2013 newsletter continued the story of Snedden Winter and the mystery of why the Ames Post was first named after him on the temporary charter but then his name was removed when the permanent charter was obtained. More information on that mystery has come to light.

The files at National HQ contain the charter applications for every post including Ames. The temporary charter application for our post contains the name Snedden Winter but that name is crossed out.

A handwritten note on the application states that the charter was issued June 16, 1919. That note goes on to say that a letter dated June 27, 1919 directed that the name be dropped. That letter is credited to John MacVicar, a name familiar in Iowa Legion history as the first state adjutant, making that an official request but not stating a reason.

It is a strong possibility that Snedden

Winter was not the first Ames man killed in WW I. An Ames Community history was published in 1964. That book states that in November 1917 "All stores closed for the military funeral of James Luke Mattingly, Ames' first boy to die in the service of his country."

It appears likely that since Pvt Winter's unit in the 168th Infantry was an Iowa National Guard unit, when the post was formed it seemed logical to name the post after the first Ames man killed from an Iowa unit. We can only assume that a controversy developed since to some it would appear that Mr. Mattingly's death was being downgraded and the Post founders quickly decided to not include anyone's name on the charter.

The later application for a permanent charter included some basic information about the post. In 1922, post dues were \$5.25 and it was acknowledged that amount was not enough to cover all forms of Post Activities and Welfare Work.

The list of officers for that year included the name of Ruth Clough as Post Historian. There were not many female WW I veterans. Finding one not only as a member but selected to leadership says something about our post.

That questionnaire also states clearly that the post maintained clubroom facilities. Now the hunt starts for that location.

There are also hints that the Ames Post was instrumental in the creation of the Ames airport and in the construction of the Bandshell.

A newspaper article from January 12, 1932 recounts the Post vote to relinquish control of the airport. The Post had taken over the airport three years earlier to rescue it from financial problems. A March 1 article reports the assumption of the airport lease by Marion Wearth, another familiar name as he was the father of one of our honorary life members of the same name.

Unit President Sharon's Comments

Hi everyone!

Another month has gone by. We have been busy this month helping with the Mother's Day brunch. We also did the funeral luncheon for Ted Hoff. I would like to thank everyone that helped with it.

Please come to the next meeting, we will be electing new officers for next year. We will also be deciding the delegates and alternates for state convention.

We have made our membership goal for this year! A BIG Thank YOU to all of you that stepped up to the plate and

made it happen! Lois Poppe, you did a great job.

We were busy Friday and Saturday of Poppy Days. I have not heard how we did yet. Jan will report to us at the next meeting in June.

We are looking for ladies to fill our unit's committee chairmen positions so please let me know if you would like to be one.

The Unit will be sponsoring two girls to Iowa Girls State this month. We will be inviting them to a future meeting to hear about their week.

The Juniors are busy making Pinwheels for our Vets. They will be working on them in May and June. We have two new members we would like to welcome to the group. They are Rexann Jones and Brianna Hastings. The juniors meet the first Sunday at the Post at 2PM. Hope to see more of you there.

We would also like to welcome our new Auxiliary members; April Luana Stoneking, Rebecca Jones, Julie Ungs, Deanna Kreutner, May Chelly Kenney and Judy Smith. At this time we have our goal +2, our total is 310..

I hope to see a lot of you at the Post on Memorial Day for lunch.

Squadron Commander Steve's Comments

I hope that everyone has had time this Memorial Day weekend to reflect on the sacrifices that our veterans past and present have made for our freedom and way of life. I again was reminded as I helped my hometown post do memorial services at three cemeteries and at the community building. Our veterans have paid a large price, whether they were injured in the line of duty or not, they all paid a price. Freedom is Never Free.

It's graduation season if you know any of our young people that are going into the military please thank them for want-

ing to maintain our freedom.

It is time again for election of officers for the coming year, the slate of officers for the Sons is:

Commander	Keven Brace
1st Vice Cmdr	Jim Valentine
Adjutant	Mike Deacon
Finance Officer	Randy Freeland
Sergeant at Arms	Roger Elliott
Chaplain	Stan Elliott
Exec Board	Steven Malmquist
	Jim Tilley

If any of our members would be inter-

ested in being 2nd Vice Commander or on the Exec Board contact Keven Brace.

Happy Birthday to our post members that were in the Army and Merchant Marines.

Till next month God Bless America.

Trivia Answers

- a) True;
- b) b- a Marine parent
- c) True

Clubroom News



Mark your calendars now!! The Annual golf outing is scheduled for August 16th at the Story City Golf Course. Sign up is available in the clubroom. The outing is a 4-person best shot and is \$30/person. The outing includes 18 holes of golf,

cart, goodie bags, luncheon at the post and much more.

\$2 Burger Nite is Friday, June 13.

Burgers will be served from 5:30-7pm. These burgers are the best in town and you get to dress them however you like them!! Try one of our appetizers with your burger or add a side of fries.

Wednesday, June 18 is Tenderloin Night.

Tenderloins will be served from 5-6:30pm. These giants are \$5 and served with a side of fries. Join your friends at the post or get them to go.

Friday, June 27 is Texas Hold-'Em.

Play starts at 7pm.

It's that time of year again!! Every Thursday during the summer stop into the clubroom for Dollar Dogs!! Enjoy our 1/3lb. Bahama Mama Hot Dogs and Chips for only \$1.00.

CLUBROOM COUPON

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

Legion/Flag Trivia

The first Flag Code was drafted by the American Legion in 1923 and was adopted by Congress in 1942. True or False

Who designed the POW/MIA flag that is on display at every Legion meeting? a) the Federal Government, b) a Marine parent, c) the US Army, d) a flag manufacturer.

The American Legion provides free, professional assistance for any veteran in filing and pursuing benefit claims before the Department of Veterans Affairs. True or False

Legion Calls for VA Secretary to Resign

On May 5, National Commander Dellinger held a press conference at HQ in Indianapolis and called for the resignation of VA Secretary Shinseki and the two Undersecretaries for Health and Benefits. This is a rare occurrence since The American Legion has not called for a public official's resignation since 1992 with VA Secretary Edward Derwinski.

There have been questions why the Legion has taken this step. There have long been backlogs in the claims area and now we hear about secret waiting lists for healthcare.

The Legion blog, The Burnpit has published an article that states the problem clearly. That article can be found at <http://burnpit.us/2014/05/its-not-just-phoenix>. Reading it should help everyone understand why Commander Dellinger and the National Executive Committee took this extraordinary step. In short, there have just been too many instances of backlogs and waiting lists, too many investigations and reports that have led to no changes, too many bonuses paid to top executives at hospitals and regional offices with problems.

Take a look at the list in the Burnpit article and form your own opinion.

Iowa Legion Foundation Awards Grants



The Board of Directors of the Iowa American Legion Foundation met on May 20 for their annual meeting. The main item of business is the awarding of grants to non-profit organization in the state of Iowa working in areas of interest to The American Legion.

The Foundation was formed from the remainder of the campaign funds of Don Johnson's National Commander campaign in 1964. Incorporated in 1968, the Foundation exists as a mechanism to promote Americanism, Youth Programs Veterans Rehabilitation and Community Service in the state of Iowa.

The By-Laws of the Foundation prohibit spending any of the donations made to the principal with only interest, dividends and profit from investments being spent. In the 50 years of the Foundation, the principal has grown to over \$2.1 million with over \$97,000 awarded in grants this year and a total of \$1.4 million in the life of the Foundation.

The Ames Post annually makes a donation to the Foundation in honor of our deceased members. That donation allows us to continue to honor their memory through the annual grants.

Individuals can also donate to the Foundation. The Iowa Legion website at http://www.ialegion.org/iowa_foundation.htm gives more information and includes a donation form.

Kudo Korner



Well done to the following Post members this month:

Sandy Deacon for a lot of hard work

maintaining the Post membership roster; Marion Eacret on his nomination as the Art McLaughlin Iowa Legionnaire of the Year; David Orman for maintaining the Post web page; Ann Rehbein for maintaining the Post's Facebook page; Greg Schoenbaum on his initiation into Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society; Jan Schmidt for organizing and coordinating Poppy Days; Jim Valentine, Steve Malmquist, Keven Brace, Stan & Tammy Hyer, Roger Elliot, Mike & Sandy Deacon, Jim Tilley and Randy Freel for a great Steak Dinner in May; Sarah Schendel, Kathy Link, Andrea Gronau, Ken Woodley, Mike & Sandy Deacon, Bob & Sharon Bellinghausen, Hank Goettsche, Cecilia Hadaway, Pat Kyle and Joan Schoenbaum for their outstanding efforts with the Building Fundraiser Brunch; and Bob & Sharon Bellinghausen for coordinating the Post's Memorial Day Luncheon..

AMERICAN LEGION POST NO. 37
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US POSTAGE PAID Permit 147 Ames, IA

LOOK INSIDE FOR COUPON

JUNE

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>	
1 BINGO	2 LEGION RIDERS 6:30	3 AUXILIARY REGULAR 7:00	4 BINGO	5 DOLLAR DOG NIGHT SOCIAL COMMITTEE 6:00	6 MUNCHIES NIGHT	7	
8 BINGO	9 BUILDING FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE	10 SAL REGULAR 6:30	11 BINGO	12 DOLLAR DOG NIGHT LEGION BOARD 6:30 REGULAR 7:30	13 \$2 BURGER NIGHT 5:30-7:00	14 FLAG DAY MAIN STREET FLAGS UP 7:30 DOWN 5:00	
15 BINGO	16	17	18 TENDERLOIN 5:00-6:30 BINGO	19 DOLLAR DOG NIGHT	20 MUNCHIES NIGHT	21	
22 BINGO	23	24 WEEKLY DRAW- ING BONUS NIGHT 40&8	25 BINGO	26 DOLLAR DOG NIGHT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE 6:00	27 TEXAS HOLD-EM 7:00 MUNCHIES NIGHT	28	
29 BINGO	30	 Find us on Facebook at American Legion Family of Ames, IA Post 37					