



THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY



Post Commander: Doug MacCrea
Unit President: Sharon Bellinghausen
Squadron Commander: Keven Brace
Chapter President: Rick Hackett

www.ameslegionpost37.com
www.ialegion.org
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225 Main Street
 Ames, IA 50010
 515-232-9870

www.legion.org
www.alaforveterans.org
www.sal.legion.org

DEFENSE AND WAR SPENDING DEBATE CONTINUES

The Republican controlled Houses of Congress continue their discussions on the amount of funding for defense and war spending.

Both Houses have unveiled their budget resolutions for the year. These resolutions are nonbinding but set out the goals for the year. These resolutions never reach the President. Instead follow-up appropriations legislation is required to finalize the process.

On military spending, the two resolutions are basically on the same page for military spending. Both plans put a \$523 billion cap on base discretionary spending which is the statutory post-sequester cap for fiscal year 2016.

After recent action by the Senate the total budgets for base discretionary and war funding are very close for the two bodies at \$613 billion for the House and \$612 billion for the Senate. Under the assumption that the two Houses approve their respective plans, the differences should be fairly easy to iron out in a conference committee.

A larger difficulty arises in the area of war spending. The following two paragraphs come from a recent



report from the Legion's legislative division.

House Republicans writing the party's annual budget proposal this year found themselves with an impossible circle to square. Conservative spending hawks insisted that the GOP stick to the budget ceiling Congress imposed four years ago, while the party's other hawks—those who prioritize a robust national defense above all else—demanded that the plan pour more money into the Pentagon as it fights a new war against ISIS.

"This is a war within the Republican Party," the always-understated Senator Lindsey Graham told the New York Times. "You can shade it any way you want, but this is war."

The annual budget is not a law but simply sets the parameters for the appropriations process later. Added significance comes from the fact that the Republicans

now control both Houses and want to agree on a budget as a way of demonstrating their capacity to govern.

Can they agree? In theory yes but many factors complicate the process not the least of which is the 2016 elections with many Republican Senators up for reelection. The Senate is often a more moderate body in ideology so it may be necessary for some of the Tea Party hardliners to compromise, at times a difficult result to achieve. This process promises to be interesting. We will keep you informed.

SAVE THE DATE!



MOTHER'S DAY BRUNCH
MAY 10, 2015
11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

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Post Commander Doug's Comments

Spring is in the Air! Hooray! I'm sure that you are as ready as I am for the warmer weather and brighter skies.

I want to start by specifically thanking the members of the Building Fundraising Committee: Mike & Sandy Deacon, Kathy Link, Michelle Sime, Ken Woodley and Sarah Schendel for their hard work. Fundraising is not an easy or glamorous undertaking. These folks have coordinated several events and 50/50 drawings for the Post that have generated over \$1600 in contributions to the Building Remodeling Fund in under 2 months and has also resulted in recruiting a half dozen new Legion Family Members. They are my heroes!

Next, I think it is extremely important to remind everyone again that our Post is a business. We have to operate as a business, which means make money, to have a Post Home where we can meet, relax, enjoy one another's company and carry out our primary goals of support to veterans and their families, promoting

Americanism for all ages and enhancing the development of our youth, among others. Being a business and a non-profit are not mutually exclusive concepts. Yes, the American Legion is a non-profit organization, but at all levels the individual components operate as businesses. The Legion has been able to remain strong because it has adopted, albeit at times slowly, to the changes in our Society and the demographics of our veteran population. Post 37 must as well if we are to remain viable in the years ahead.

The Operations Committee, with my support and backing, and Sarah as the Operations Manager with their approval in particular, have undertaken several initiatives in the past few weeks to help increase revenue, expose the community to the American Legion Family and our Post Home, and ultimately keep us financially stable to do the things we want to do as the Post 37 Family.

Some of you have raised some con-

cerns about these initiatives. The fact of the matter is that we need to try and do something. Simply maintaining the status quo or depending solely upon our membership for revenue, our limited number of volunteers to put on revenue generating events such as Bingo or weekly dinners and dances will only result in our Post Home slowly withering away. We have been a successful and vital part of the Ames community for almost 100 years. We have been successful because, as an organization, we have adjusted to the changing times of the community and society. We need to bring in new members and the best way to help do that is to open the Post Home to the community and guests so that they can get to know us. We simply cannot afford not to try new things to increase membership in the long term and revenue in the short term.

In closing, my family and I wish you all a Happy Easter and Passover and we hope that we will see you at the Post soon.

Unit President Sharon's Comments

Hi Everyone,

Hope everyone is enjoying the nice days we are having. I just want to remind everyone to get out and invite friends and family to join us in helping the Vets.

Dates to remember are:

April 4th—Steak Dinner

April 12th—Junior meeting at 2pm

April 18th—our bake sale and breakfast

Girls don't forget to sign up on line for Summer camp and let Joyce Elliot know. We have to send the money by April 1st so please let us know. The PPP will meet the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7pm. We hosted a dinner for our vets from the Iowa Veterans Home on Monday night at the post.

April 11th is the District meeting at Van

Meter.

Ladies please bring your baked goods to the Post on April 17th for the bake sale. We'll need help that day so call Pat Kyle if you can help. We also need help for our Poppy Days on Memorial Day weekend. Please remember to sign up to help with Bingo.

See you at the Post.

Squadron Commander Keven's Comments

The Squadron has made and surpassed our Membership Target. Congratulations and thanks to those who have helped, especially to Marion Eacret. He is the one who really makes our membership happen.

I thank the many people who stood in for me when I was not able to work the February steak dinner and when I was not able to attend the March Squadron meeting. It just shows that no one person is indispensable and that someone will stand in and do what needs to be done. Thanks again.

The Merit Award application deadline was 15 March. Six were received and the essays have been given to the com-

mittee members (Roger Elliott, Stan Elliott, and Steve Malmquist) so they can judge and choose the winner(s).

The Biscuits and Gravy Breakfast will be from 0700-1100 on 18 April. Some people have already signed up to work but more are needed. If you can work, let me know. At a minimum, please come and enjoy the food and conversation with your friends.

The Squadron is in charge of the May Steak Dinner. Again workers are needed. If you can, contact me. If you can't, come and enjoy a good supper.

The nominating committee has been very busy and they have found people

to run for many of the offices but unfortunately only one per each. It would be nice to have a contested election. Candidates are still needed for Second Vice, Historian, and Exec. Board (2 are needed). If interested, contact Mike Deacon or Roger Elliott.

Congratulations to The Legion on their 96th Birthday. We could not exist without them.

If you are not currently active in The Squadron, please consider it. You will participate and have a voice in the things you read about in these articles. You will also make friends that you will have for the rest of your life.

Clubroom News

Happy Spring to one and all!! I am sure that everyone has a little cabin fever after this winter, so stop by the clubroom and catch up with friends. Moscow Mules are back by popular demand. Check out our fantastic flavors, they are a refreshing drink on a gorgeous spring day.

We have a little something for everyone. The day begins with Happy Hour and we have nightly specials nearly every night.

Tater-Tot Tuesday will feature a tower of tots with tempting toppings to transform them into a tantalizing tasty tidbit.

Wineday Wednesday is your opportunity to stop in and taste our many wonderful wines for only \$3.00 a glass. Bring in some friends and share a bottle of our Carletto wines for only \$12.

Thursday is Dynamic Duo Day. Dive into Dollar Dogs, a delightful dilemma of

decisions. Bonus; \$2 Bud Brotherhood Bottles between 6pm and close. Bring your buddies for a bite, beverages, and boisterous bonding.

Friday, April 10 is Tenderloin Basket Night. Tenderloins will be served from 5:30-7pm. Stop by and try this delicious Sandwich with fries and all the fixins' for only \$6. If you don't have time to stay, stop in anyway and let us make you one to go! Tenderloin Night is the perfect opportunity to bring down some new friends, share an appetizer, and show them how great our Post is!!

Wednesday, April 15 is Burger Basket Night. Burgers will be served from 5-6:30pm. These 1/3lb burgers are the best in town and served with all your favorite toppings and a side of fries for only \$5.00.

Friday, April 24 is Texas Hold-'Em. Play begins at 7pm.

CLUBROOM COUPON
Any Tuesday in April
Present Coupon to get
2 drinks for the price of 1.
Cash Purchase Only

Legion Riders

Rick Hackett, President
 John Valline, Vice President
 Banita Deaton, Secretary
 Steve KerckVorde, Treasurer
 Rick Hackett, State Advisor
 Kelly Freel, Membership Chair
 Banita Deaton, Historian
 Paul Keigley, Historian
 Doug Sargent, Sergeant of Arms
 Leonard Springer, Chaplain
 Ken Wood, Road Captain
 Ian Murken, Road Captain

Another riding season is upon us. We will have dinner rides scheduled for every Monday evening except first Mondays of the month starting May 12 and ending on Sept. 29th. Rides begin with kickstands up at 6:30PM. Meet in the rear parking lot by 6:15PM. Also, we are planning a bike show for this summer sometime. We hope to have other activities with a raffle and food stand and hope to be in close proximity to the post. Details will be available after further planning and coordination with the city and the Main Street Cultural District Director. If you are interested in joining the Legion Riders our meeting is the first Monday of every Month at 6:30 at the post. More info, including applications are available at www.ameslegionpost37.com under the Legion Riders Tab.

Boys and Girls Staters Chosen



The Post and Unit committees have made their selections of the young men and women that will be attending Boys and Girls State this summer.

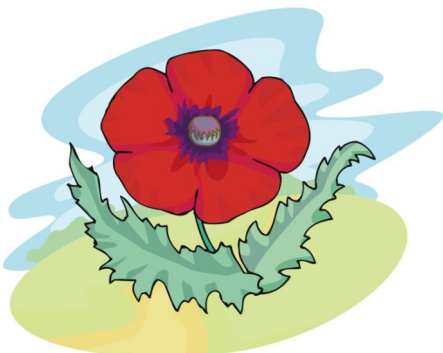
The sponsorship of the Post and Squadron will send Nathan Chen and Alex Gindt of Ames High and Ryan Jenkins and Austin Graber of Gilbert High.

The Unit will be represented by Ashley Sitzman of Ames and Allison Gardner of Gilbert.

Girls State will be held June 14-19 on the Iowa State Campus while Boys State will be those same dates at Camp Dodge.

Following the programs this summer, the Boys and Girls Staters will be back to the Post, Unit and Squadron to talk about their experience. Watch future issues of the newsletter for an announcement for those meetings.

Poppy Day Volunteers Needed



Poppy Days: The American Legion Auxiliary will hold Poppy Days on Friday, May 22 and Saturday, May 23, 2015, which is Memorial Day weekend.

Volunteers will distribute poppies at various locations around Ames from 8:00 am until 4:00 pm on Friday, and from 8:00 am until 2:00 pm on Saturday. We are in need of volunteers to help with this. Any donations received will be used to help veterans and their families. If you can help, please sign up at the Legion or contact Jan Schmidt, Chairman at 215-1076 or cell phone 515-290-5444. My email address is jansch1@juno.com. Thank you!

Kudo Korner



Well done to the following this month:
 Stan & Joyce Elliot,
 Sandy Deacon,
 Randy Freel, Dave

Rehbein, Pat Phillips, Phil Harris Jim Mott, Jim Demarest and Kathy Mac-Crea for the great monthly Steak Dinner; Ron Kingsbury for his help with Building repairs; Kathy Link, Sandy Deacon and Sarah Schendel for organizing the Spring Fair; Tom Hadaway, Junior Metzger, Kathy Link, Mike & Sandy Deacon and Sarah Schendel for another super Burger Night.

AMERICAN LEGION 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

APRIL

<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 American Legion Family of Ames, IA Post 37			1 WINEDAY WEDNESDAY BINGO	2 DYNAMIC DUO DAY SOCIAL COMMITTEE 6:00	3 MUNCHIES NIGHT	4 STEAK DINNER 5:30—7:00
5 BINGO	6 LEGION RIDERS 6:30	7 TATER-TOT TUESDAY AUXILIARY REGULAR 7:00	8 WINEDAY WEDNESDAY BINGO	9 DYNAMIC DUO DAY LEGION BOARD 6:30 REGULAR 7:30	10 TENDERLOIN NIGHT 5:30-7:00	11
12 JUNIOR AUXILIARY 2PM BINGO	13 BUILDING FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE	14 TATER-TOT TUESDAY SAL REGULAR 6:30	15 WINEDAY WEDNESDAY BURGER NIGHT 5:00-6:30 BINGO	16 DYNAMIC DUO DAY	17 MUNCHIES NIGHT	18 BISCUITS & GRAVY BKFST & BAKE SALE 7-11 AM
19 BINGO	20	21 TATER-TOT TUESDAY PAST PRESIDENT'S PARLEY 7:00	22 WINEDAY WEDNESDAY BINGO	23 DYNAMIC DUO DAY OPERATIONS COMMITTEE 6:00	24 TEXAS HOLD-EM 7:00 MUNCHIES NIGHT	25
26 BINGO	27	28 TATER-TOT TUESDAY 40&8	29 WINEDAY WEDNESDAY BINGO	30 DYNAMIC DUO DAY		