

AMERICAN LEGION RED TEAM FORMING

The Ames American Legion Post is sponsoring a new program. A group of OIF/OEF/OND vets told us they wanted to be part of a program helping their fellow veterans regardless of era of service.

They are taking the example of an organization named Team Rubicon and turning it into a local service organization finding and assisting those needy veterans with home repair or cleanup problems.

They have chosen the name Red Team for their group. You may have seen them on KCWI Good Morning in early July. You will have heard more about them in the last weeks as they held their first fundraiser at the post and take on their first project.

The Post has wholeheartedly gone on record as endorsing this program and the group to the extent of committing \$500 to their



use and pledging our support in whatever way is possible.

The Red Team's mission is service to veterans in financial need. That mission goes all the way back to our founders after World War I.

There will be challenges. We hope to use the Post's tax-exemption to assist with finding donations of money and material for projects. We will need help in identifying vets in need since in so many cases that need is kept private. We may need help from the professionals in the business if a project gets too complicated or requires permitting.

While membership is not the focus of this project, we hope that other mem-

bers of the OIF/OEF/OND eras will join with their comrades in this effort. We hope that by their visibility in the community, other veterans of all eras will see the American Legion stepping forward to help and will want to assist with that if only by joining.

The T-shirt you see above that they will be wearing will have the American Legion emblem on the reverse side so there should be no doubt which organization is responsible for the work being done.

The Red Team is being led by Jennifer Monserud and Matt Suckow. For now, make contact with them through e-mail by mailing redteamames@gmail.com. Any donations sent to the Post should be earmarked for the Red Team.

New Membership Year Begins

Welcome to the following new Post Members: Amy Coffey, Chris McClure, Martin Olson, Elyse Montang, Mark Erickson, Amber Suckow, Jerry Simmermaker, Dennis Vincent and Craig Foster.

These Legionnaires are helping us get the new membership

year started right. Thanks to all that have renewed for 2016. For the rest that haven't yet, there is no advantage to be gained by waiting. Renew now by mail or online.

We were successful in meeting our goal for 2015. Lets keep that success going.

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Post Commander Stan's Comments

Greetings, new officers are installed and we begin a new year. As your Post Commander I look forward to working closely with Unit President Tammy Hyer, Squadron Commander Roger Elliott and the American Legion Riders chapter president Rick Hackett. I know that by all of us working together great things can happen.

Your 2016 membership cards are ready. Let's get our dues paid and start this year off with a bang. I congratulate everyone on helping us make our goal for last year, now let's do it again!

As you read this you may have noticed some t-shirts being worn around the post with a logo for the RED TEAM on the front with the American Legion emblem on the back. Our post is sponsoring a group of young veterans whose

mission is to help less fortunate veterans in need. A wide range of activities from minor home repairs to after storm cleanup are ways they help.

They are currently working defining their group's organization along with filling their leadership positions. I attended two of Red Team's meetings and personally I'm very impressed with their drive and dedication. At this time they have one project lined up and hope to have it completed by the end of the summer. As you visit the post if you see any of the Red Team members I encourage you to introduce yourself to them as some are new American Legion members.

The American Legion is responsible for the steak dinner on September 5th. Please volunteer if able we can always

use the help. If you can't help, please show your support by enjoying a great meal.

Helping with Bingo on a Sunday or Wednesday evening is one way to get involved in post activities.

As the Commander I welcome any comments and suggestions to help improve our Post.

 * **Boys & Girls State Reports** *
 * The Girls State representatives are being invited to the Unit meeting on August 4 and the Boys State representatives to the Post and Squadron meetings on August 11 and 13. Make plans to attend one of those meetings and listen to their experiences. *

Unit President Tammy's Comments

Hi, everyone!

By the time you read this, I will have officially become your Auxiliary President. I would like to thank everyone for your support and encouragement. Your Auxiliary leadership team for 2015/2016 includes Jan Schmidt (1st Vice President), Kelli Hitsman (2nd Vice President), Sandy Deacon (Secretary), Marilyn Nervig (Treasurer), Ann Rehbein (Chaplain), Dee Ball (Historian), and Sharon Bellinghausen (Sgt at Arms). Your Executive Board is Jan Anderson, Pat Kyle, Kay MacVey, LaVonne Treadway, and Jammie Phillips.

The Auxiliary's mission is to serve veterans, their families and their community. This year, with your assistance, I want to find new and exciting ways to promote the Auxiliary and support our mission as well as utilizing our previously successful projects. One of those successful projects occurred on July 4th. The Legion Family served hamburgers, brats, jumbo dogs, chips and drinks before, during and after the parade. Thank you to those Auxiliary members who volunteered their time to help!

If you have not attended an Auxiliary meeting recently, here is your invitation. **Please join us at one of our meetings held the first Tuesday of each month.**

Attending a meeting would allow you to meet other members, share ideas, and open up opportunities to get involved. Speaking of opportunities to get involved, if you are interested in being a member of one of our committees, please let me know. As we start another membership year, please pay your dues and recruit, recruit. The more members we have, the more talent, skills and hands we can draw upon. Don't forget our Juniors! Young ladies under age 18 can sign up and be part of the Auxiliary. Until next time!

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Squadron Commander Roger's Comments

The installation of new officers for the Legion, Auxiliary, and the Sons of the Legion has taken place and there are now some new faces to put with titles. One of those new faces is mine. Let me introduce myself. My name is Roger Elliott and I am the new commander for the S.A.L. I am a lifetime resident of Ames and recently observed my 43rd year of employment with Danfoss (Sundstrand).

I've been a member of the S.A.L. for 2 years thanks, in part, to my brother whom many of you already know, Stanley Elliott. Stan had been encouraging me to join for quite some time and a couple of years ago, he offered to pay my first year's dues. He was sure that I

would become hooked if he could get me to a couple of meetings and he was right. Like all segments of the Legion, the S.A.L. is about serving and it is a great group.

This brings me to the second topic I want to share... Service. Let me ask you a question. Why are you a member of this organization? Hopefully, it was because you wanted to be a part of something that makes a difference. All branches of the Legion offer multiple opportunities to be active and to make a positive impact on other's lives. But to be successful, it takes people. People who will attend meetings, propose new ideas, and roll up their sleeves.

Let me put forth a respectful challenge.

If you are not regularly attending the monthly meeting, will you make an honest effort to attend at least one in the next 3 months? If you have not volunteered at an activity in the past year, will you raise your hand for at least one event in the next year?

To every member of the S.A.L., I would like the opportunity to meet each of you and to work side-by-side with you as we serve those who have served this country.

If we don't have the opportunity to meet and there is something you would like to share with me, please feel free to e-mail me at rogwel183@gmail.com.

Clubroom News

Summer is flying by and can you believe that it's State Fair time again? The Clubroom is the perfect place to beat the heat. Don't forget that besides great libations we also have a great menu available every day, and a special home cooked meal every Wednesday.

Here's what we have planned:

Friday, August 7 Tenderloin Basket Night. Tenderloins are served from 5:30-7pm. These giants are 7oz, served with a side of fries and topped with all your favorites for only \$6. Eat them here or take them to go!!

Wednesday, August 19 is Burger Basket Night. Burgers will be served from 5-6:30pm. Burger Baskets are \$5 and served with a side of fries and your garden favorites. Why heat up your own kitchen?

Check out our awesome daily specials

Tater-Tot Tuesday- Featuring a tower of tots with tempting toppings to transform them into a tantalizing tasty tidbit. \$3.50.

Winesday Wednesday- try one of our many fine wines, whether you like a dry red or a sweet white or your tastes are in between, we have a wine for you. \$3 a glass or share a bottle of one of our Carletto Wines for only \$12.

Thursday Dynamic Duo Day- Offering Dollar Dogs all day, your choice of Plain, Jalapeno & Cheddar, or Cheddar. 6-Close we have \$2 Bud Brotherhood Bottles. It's a great time to bring in some friends and enjoy a baseball game!!

Sunday Funday- Every Sunday the clubroom offers a \$4 Bloody Mary loaded with all the goodies, \$5 Moscow Mules all day long, and \$3 Mimosas, join us for a fun day and added surprises.

Calling all Chicago Cubs Fans!! Every Chicago Cubs game the post is offering \$11 Bud family buckets and buy one get one half price appetizers when you are wearing any Cubs apparel.

Please keep checking the Facebook page for exciting events and offers at the post!!

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

Kudo Korner



Well done to the following this month for their volunteer efforts at the Post: Sarah Schendel, Mike & Sandy Deacon, Stan & Tammy Hyer, Lois Poppe, Leonard Springer and Steve Vankerckvoorde for the Fourth of July Barbeque Fundraiser in front of the Post; Geno Janssen for walking the Fourth of July Parade route on stilts doing a cotton candy fundraiser, and; Stan Hyer, Mike Deacon & Sandy Deacon, Rick Hackett and Hank Goettsche for putting on another great Burger Night.

Commander Helm Speaks Out

VA Report on Waiting List

Calling an internal Veterans Affairs report that states that 238,647 veterans died while waiting for VA health care "extremely disturbing," American Legion National Commander Michael D. Helm said Congress and the White House need to decrease wait times and improve record keeping.

"I don't know how accurate that number is," Helm said of the report, which was first obtained by the Huffington Post. "I do know that if it's even close to that, it is mind-boggling. Of course, dying while on a waiting list doesn't mean the same as dying because of a waiting list. We do know that by virtue of their service to this country, veterans deserve high quality medical care in a timely manner. The American Legion had members of our national staff meet with VA's Health Eligibility Center in Atlanta last year to investigate this very issue. We

need to see the official report from the Inspector General and, more importantly, we want to see VA's plan to speed up the process and ensure that patients are not dying because of needless delays. As we have said all along, this isn't about any single VA facility. It is a systemic problem."

Army Drawdown

"Absolute lunacy" is how the leader of the nation's largest veterans service organization characterized plans to reduce the U.S. Army by another 40,000 troops.

"After the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, politicians often accused one another of having a 'pre-9/11 mentality,'" American Legion National Commander Michael D. Helm said. "Yet now we are cutting our military to pre-World War II levels. This is not just absolute lunacy, it's a complete disregard of the constitutionally-mandated responsibilities that our elected leaders in both parties have sworn to uphold. Just last month, ISIS inspired

terrorist attacks on three different continents on a single day. Many in Congress and the Obama administration have routinely condemned the meat cleaver approach to cutting our defense, yet sequestration has been in effect since 2013. Will some of our elected officials please show some leadership here?"

Helm pointed out that in addition to ISIS, nations such as Russia, China, North Korea and Iran have all engaged in provocative and threatening actions. "As national commander, I have been visiting U.S. military bases around the world. Just last month a three-star general asked me, 'What is it going to take for people to wake-up, Paris burning?' Election season is starting to pick up steam, both at the presidential and local levels. I call on all Americans and members of the media to demand plans and answers from those running for office. Every time we had military drawdowns, this nation later regretted it. Let's do the responsible thing and field a military worthy of our great country before it is too late."

AMERICAN LEGION POST NO. 37
 225 Main Street
 Ames, IA 50010

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US POSTAGE PAID Permit 147 Ames, IA

LOOK INSIDE FOR COUPON

AUGUST

<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
2 BINGO	3 LEGION RIDERS 6:30	4 TATER TOT TUESDAY AUXILIARY REGULAR 7:00	5 WINESDAY WEDNESDAY BINGO	6 DYNAMIC DUO DAY	7 MUNCHIES NIGHT	8
9 BINGO	10	11 TATER TOT TUESDAY SAL REGULAR 6:30	12 WINESDAY WEDNESDAY BINGO	13 DYNAMIC DUO DAY LEGION BOARD 6:30 REGULAR 7:30	14 TENDERLOIN BASKET 5:30-7:00	15
16 BINGO	17	18 TATER TOT TUESDAY	19 WINESDAY WEDNESDAY BURGER NIGHT 5:00-6:30 BINGO	20 DYNAMIC DUO DAY SOCIAL COMMITTEE 6:00	21 MUNCHIES NIGHT	22
23 BINGO	24	25 TATER TOT TUESDAY 40&8	26 WINESDAY WEDNESDAY BINGO	27 DYNAMIC DUO DAY OPERATIONS COMMITTEE 6:00	28 MUNCHIES NIGHT	29
30 BINGO	31					