

# Ames Legion Family In Action

## CHRISTMAS AROUND THE POST

The Ames Legion Family will be nearly as busy as your family during this Christmas season.

We will kick off the holiday season by hosting a Parents Shopping Night Out on December 3 from 5:30 to 8:30. This will provide a chance for Mom and Dad to shop and dine in Downtown.

There will be holiday classic movies and fun activities for the kids. Supervision will be provided by ISU students. Children must be at least age 5. Please call 233-4568 to reserve space. The public is welcome to participate. Holiday for Heroes Ornament event will kick-off on December 5. This will be a chance for you to help a

needy veterans family by donating to purchase needed items for the children of the family. Ornaments like this one will be for sale. Each ornament will contain an item needed by a veteran's child that the purchase will provide.

There will also be a performance from 11-12 by dancers from the Nutcracker Holiday classic. Saturday morning December 12 will see an event that is rapidly becoming a Christmas tradition at the Ames American Legion, breakfast sponsored by the Squadron and the cookie fair sponsored by the Unit.



It is a great breakfast to get you started on a day of shopping and Christmas errands and gets you a great box of cookies and snacks to enjoy as you and your family get ready for the holiday season.

Yum! Many of your favorite nuts and chocolates are still available for your gift giving and baking needs. Call Ann at 232-9299 or check at one of the many functions at the clubroom this month.

Finally remember your Post as you put your Christmas gift list together. A gift to the Post, whether to the Building Fund or the General Fund would be greatly appreciated and will pay dividends for you at tax time.

## SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO THE LEGION

Stop by the Legion on Friday, December 11 to see Santa. Santa will be at the Legion from 6:30- 7:30pm. December 11 is also \$5 Burger Basket Nite from 5:30-7pm. The Auxiliary will also have Teri Lynn nuts for



sale. This is a great opportunity to bring the entire family. Santa will have special treats for the children and of course a photo too. This is fun for all ages, please join us!



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## Post Commander Stan's Comments

November was a busy month at the legion! Thanks to all who helped make things run smoothly.

December will be starting with our monthly supper on December 5th, Santa on the 11th, and the SAL breakfast and Auxiliary cookie fair are on December 12th.

I am pleased to announce that we have a contestant for the Oratorical contest. We are planning on having our contest at the December meeting.

Membership is now at 74.22%, keep up the good work! If your dues aren't paid, please pay them soon so we can be 100%.

Our meetings are the second Thursday of each month at 7:30pm, please mark your calendars to attend. We look for-

ward to seeing each of you at all of our meetings.

Help is needed with functions at the legion, bingo - dinners- special activities, please let me know if any of these would be of interest to you and I will see that you are put into contact with the right people.

The Post leadership extends a very big thank you to everyone who helped raise funds for our remodeling. Due to your efforts we recently were able to secure financing at a lower percentage rate. I give special thanks to the Legion Family members who had faith in this project and helped us secure the first note, without your taking a chance on us this never could have happened.

Christmas is always a special time of year for me. Like most of us that

served, we spent our share of Christmas holidays away from those we love. When I was on active duty I spent three out of four Christmases with my Navy family. I didn't think they were that special then but as I grow older I realize just how important they were to me and as we all know the bonds of military brotherhood / sisterhood can never be broken. I think about those guys most everyday even though it was almost forty years ago. To spend holiday time with family and friends is a very special gift that we should never take for granted. Take time to remember those that are no longer with you and hug those that are with you a little tighter, and, say an extra prayer for our men and women protecting us this holiday season.

Safe travels to all and have a VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS.



Welcome to the new members of The American Legion that have joined the post in the last 60 days.

Meghan White, Christopher Novak, Ron O'Lena, Michael Bennett, Brendan Bakalars, Dodie Peterson, Dodie Lawrence, Gary Lantz, William Abbott, William Cobb, Donald Hendricks, Gregory Isenberger, Norman Willard, Jon Sargent, Garrett Christensen, Jason Crimmins and Jason Goodman.

## Have You Renewed Yet?

Can you answer that question YES? To the left you see the names of 17 veterans that have chosen to become members of The American Legion in the last 60 days. Will you be one of their fellow members? Don't forget the post will need to send in \$5 more if you wait to renew until January. In this issue, you can see everything the Legion family is doing for Christmas. We will participate in the Oratorical contest this year and we are in discussion to reactivate the shooting team. Every issue of this newsletter talks of our activities, activities that we cannot continue without you. Renew now and be a part of all we do!

## Unit President Tammy's Comments

Hi, everyone!

Here we are in the last month of 2015 already. Hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday.

The first item I would like to bring up is the decision on the Story County Veterans Affairs Office. By now, I'm sure most of you have heard that the Veterans Affairs Office will be moving into a shared space with Community Services. They will be in the same building but on a different floor. This will allow the administrative staff of Community Services to help the Veterans Affairs staff with routine things. The Board also authorized hiring another VA certified staff person to help Brett with veteran specific duties. I sat through the **lengthy** discussion and it is my opinion that this is the best outcome based upon that discussion. I expect most of you will hear some grumbling about the decision because no one at the meeting got everything they wanted. We need

to remember, Life is full of compromises.

The Auxiliary held a Veterans Day presentation at the Ames Public Library on November 7<sup>th</sup>. Jammie put together a power point; Sandy put together an informational presentation that was read by Jammie, Laura, & Tammy; Pat, Mike and Erica demonstrated how to fold the flag while Sandy read what each fold meant; Jorja worked with the kids on a painting project; Dee, Lavonne, and Kay brought cookies; and there were coloring pages available. The kids appeared to have fun and learn a little in the process. At the end of the proceedings, Sandy gave away a flag to one of the children whose number was chosen. Andrew and his Dad were ecstatic. Thank you to Legion for donating the flag!

I ended my report last month with a listing of the 5 goals for the Auxiliary's Strategic Plan. I was going to elaborate

on these goals in this newsletter. However I decided to elaborate on only one: Goal 2 – Create an internal Culture of Goodwill. I took the time the other day to read the November 2015 Auxiliary magazine. I was saddened by how many times the articles addressed our loss of membership and lack of participation by saying some of our members are treating other members badly. This should never happen within Ames Unit #37. We are joined together by one cause – fulfilling the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary. "In the spirit of service, not self", let's keep retaining/growing our membership by being kind and welcoming to each other.

Have a great month. Say Thanks to a Veteran!

Upcoming events:

Dec 12<sup>th</sup> – Cookie Fair – we need cookies and helpers

Jan 2<sup>nd</sup> – The Auxiliary hosts the Steak Dinner – need volunteers

## Clubroom News

Season's Greetings!! We hope that everyone enjoyed a safe and happy Thanksgiving. Of course, the clubroom will be filled with all kinds of wonderful and fun activities for the holiday season. We hope that everyone will have an opportunity to stop by the post and participate in the festivities. We also encourage everyone to join us for the Iowa State basketball games; we have an enormous TV for your viewing enjoyment, as well as, great drink specials and seasonal beers.

Weekly drawing bonus night!! The end of the year bonus drawings will commence Tuesday, December 22. Six drawings will be held every half hour beginning at 6:30pm. Members that have signed in a minimum of fifty percent of the year are qualified for the drawings and must be present to win.

Stop in and see us, we have something for everyone!!

**Monday- Weekly Drawing-** Once a week, drop your dollar into the wishing well and enter for a chance to win up to

\$500.

**Toasted Cheese Tuesday-** Enjoy a toasted cheese sandwich and a cup of soup for only \$3.00!! Add ham to your sandwich for \$1 more.

**Wineday Wednesday-** Stop in and check out our new selection of wines. We have red and whites varying from sweet to dry. Enjoy a glass for \$3 or bring in some friends and share a bottle of our Carletto wine for \$12.

**Thirsty Thursday-** Featuring \$2 Chili Dogs all night and \$2 Bottles (Bud Family) from 7-9pm.

**Friday-munchie night!!** After a hard week, it's great to sit back with your friends and have a snack and beverage.

**Friday, December 11 is \$5 Burger Basket Nite** and a visit from a special guest. Burgers will be served from 5:30-7pm. This is a fabulous opportunity to bring down the whole family for a great meal at a great price and to get your picture taken with Santa. Start your

## Squadron Commander Roger's Comments

Let me start off this month's thoughts with a sincere **THANK YOU** to those who helped out with the S.A.L. steak dinner where we served around 60 meals. Being new to the duty of chairing the event, I was quite nervous but all of you took my shortcomings in stride and had fun when you caught one of my errors in order taking (of which there were a few).

Wow! It's hard to believe that we are almost at the end of another year. But here we are, in the midst of the holidays. Many of us have already spent time with family and friends to give thanks for the bountiful blessings we have enjoyed over the past year. Soon, many of us will again be gathering with those we love to celebrate our Christmas traditions, and then after that, to ring in a new year.

A tradition that many observe is the making of New Year's resolutions. If you are making a list of possible New Year resolutions, may I offer a couple to consider? If what I have heard from those who have visited others posts is true, our post has a lot to be appreciated. We have an excellent, well-kept facility and the food and beverages are quite good and reasonably priced. There is no reason our post cannot be recognized (and utilized more often) as

a community center. In addition to what I've already mentioned, funds that are spent here go back into maintaining and improving the facility as well as it helps to sustain the many projects we offer for our vets. So I encourage you to visit, eat, and relax more often at the post. The other resolution to consider is increased involvement. Whether it's helping with one of the dinners, posting and removing flags for celebrations, or general cleaning, there's plenty of work that goes on behind the scenes that makes this post what it is. Even if you can only help for a couple of hours or it's a menial task, every little bit helps. Please consider committing some time this next year to serving in some capacity at the post.

There are several events coming up this month and I encourage you to look at the calendar and other articles to see what all will be taking place. A couple that I want to highlight are the Legion Dinner on Dec 5<sup>th</sup> and the Breakfast/Cookie Fair on Dec 12<sup>th</sup>. We are still looking for volunteers to help prepare and serve food so please think about helping out. If your schedule is such that you are not able to help, then how about coming down for some good food at one or both events?

May you have a joyful and safe holiday,

### CLUBROOM COUPON

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

night off right with one of our many appetizers!

**Wednesday, December 16 is Tenderloin Basket Night.** It's getting busier and busier as we are quickly approaching the big day, so take a break from the hustle and bustle and let us cook.

December 24<sup>th</sup> the Clubroom will be open from 12-6pm. If you have never joined us on Christmas Eve, please do. We have so much fun and cheer. Please bring a munchie to share. Please note that we will be closed on Christmas day.

The clubroom will be having our weekly meat raffle again this season. Stop by for a chance to win one of four fabulous weekly prizes.

The post is also selling Koozies, which make great stocking stuffers!

## Kudo Korner



Well done to the following this month for their volunteer efforts at the Post: Kathy Link, Sandy Deacon and Sarah Schendel

for organizing the Fall Holiday Showcase shopping event; Paul Scharfenkamp, Hank Goettsche, Sandy Deacon, Tammy Hyer, Sharon Bellinghausen, Andrea Gronau and Kathy MacCrea for their assistance in putting on the Veteran's Day Luncheon; Kathy Link, Mike & Sandy Deacon, Ken Woodley, Owen Link, Stan & Tammy Hyer, Sharon Bellinghausen, Hank Goettsche Ellen Ohm, Jan Hansen and Everett Freel for working the Building Remodeling Fund Brunch; Don Johnson and Leroy Johnson for setting up for Bingo each night; Keven Brace, Bob & Sharon Bellinghausen, Pat Phillips, Alex Phillips, Randy Freel, Sue & Steve Jones, Sandy Deacon, Steve Malmquist, Jan Schmidt, Stan Elliot and Roger Elliot for the November Steak Dinner, and; Stan Hyer, Mike & Sandy Deacon, Ken Woodley, Hank Goettsche and Sarah Schendel for another great Burger Night.

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

# DECEMBER



HOLIDAY FOR HEROES  
 STARTS DECEMBER 5

<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 <b>American Legion Family of Ames, IA Post 37</b>	Find us on Facebook at <b>American Legion Family of Ames, IA Post 37</b>	<b>1</b> TOASTED CHEESE TUESDAY  AUXILIARY REGULAR 7:00	<b>2</b> WINEDAY WEDNESDAY  BINGO	<b>3</b> THIRSTY THURSDAY  PARENTS SHOPPING NIGHT 5:30-8:30	<b>4</b>  MUNCHIES NIGHT	<b>5</b> NUTCRACKER DANCERS 11-12 STEAK DINNER 5:30—7:00
<b>6</b>  BINGO	<b>7</b>  LEGION RIDERS 6:30	<b>8</b> TOASTED CHEESE TUESDAY  SAL REGULAR 6:30	<b>9</b> WINEDAY WEDNESDAY  BINGO	<b>10</b> THIRSTY THURSDAY  LEGION BOARD 6:30 REGULAR 7:30	<b>11</b> BURGER BASKET 5:30-7:00 SANTA 6:30-7:30	<b>12</b> SAL BREAKFAST & AUXILIARY COOKIE FAIR
<b>13</b>  BINGO	<b>14</b>  BUILDING FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE	<b>15</b> TOASTED CHEESE TUESDAY PAST PRESIDENT'S PARLEY 7:00	<b>16</b> WINEDAY WEDNESDAY TENDERLOIN 5:00-6:30 BINGO	<b>17</b> THIRSTY THURSDAY OPERATIONS & SOCIAL COMMITTEE 6:00	<b>18</b>  MUNCHIES NIGHT	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b>  BINGO	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> TOASTED CHEESE TUESDAY BONUS DRAWINGS 6:30-9:00 40&8	<b>23</b> WINEDAY WEDNESDAY  BINGO	<b>24</b> THIRSTY THURSDAY CHRISTMAS EVE CLUBROOM HOURS NOON-6:00	<b>25</b>  CHRISTMAS CLUBROOM CLOSED	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b>  BINGO	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> TOASTED CHEESE TUESDAY	<b>30</b> WINEDAY WEDNESDAY  BINGO	<b>31</b> THIRSTY THURSDAY		