

# Ames Legion Family In Action

## THOUGHTS FROM THE COMMANDER

Ninety-six years ago, several hundred members of the American Expeditionary Forces, both officer and enlisted, met in Paris, France to caucus. Their goal was to establish some organization and determine the priorities required to help support the almost 2 million American service members who had come to European continent to help the Allies defeat the Germans and especially to care for those wounded and the families of those who died in what was believed to be the "war to end all wars." Their efforts led to the establishment of The American Legion and the start of a legacy to protect veteran's rights, care for those veterans and their families needing assistance, promote national security and develop the next generation of Americans. Those caucus attendees knew the magnitude of the importance of their mission and the legacy it has attained.

This month we celebrate the Legion's birthday. The Post will hold a small celebration in honor of the Legion's 96<sup>th</sup> birthday on March 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM. I invite all members of the Legion, Auxiliary, Sons and Riders to join us in this celebration. We will also be inviting the public to attend so we can showcase the accomplishments and efforts of the Legion in our unwavering support of veterans and their families over the past 96 years as well as the many Legion programs we sponsor.

We had a good representation from the Post at Mid-Winter Conference, and I thank all those who made the effort to attend, especially in light of the cold weather. There was a lot of good information presented and I know I learned a lot.



Are you a country music fan? Would you be interested in a chance to receive a Fender guitar autographed by Toby Keith? Well, here is your chance.

The Department is raffling off a Fender guitar, autographed by Toby Keith and enclosed in a display case. Raffle tickets are \$5.00 each and will be available at the Post on Friday evenings and other regularly scheduled events as well as the Legion Meetings on March 12<sup>th</sup>. You can also contact me at [ames-legionpost37cdr@gmail.com](mailto:ames-legionpost37cdr@gmail.com) to arrange a time to purchase tickets.

This month also starts the efforts to identify individuals to serve as Post Officers and Executive Board members starting in July. A Nomination Committee has been established and they have started looking for candidates and asking Legionnaires to fill the many Post leadership positions for coming year. I encourage you to consider filling one of these leadership positions

within the Post. It only requires a few hours a month and I think you will find it a personally rewarding experience serving and supporting your fellow veterans, their families and the community. If you are interested in being part of the Post leadership team for the coming year, please contact me.

Punxsutawney Phil predicted six more weeks of winter last month. Regrettably, it looks like he is going to be right again. I don't know about you, but the cold weather has worn me out and I will be glad to see some warmer temperatures when they finally do arrive.

In the meantime, we can stay warm and enjoy March Madness at the Post and watch all of the games on the big screen. There are also a lot of other March events planned at the Post and we hope that you will take the opportunity, brave the cold, and enjoy those events with other members of the Post 37 Family.

I hope that you have a great March and look forward to seeing you at the Post.

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## Clubroom News

Well, it's that time of year again; St. Patrick's Day is fast upon us. St. Pat's Day is one of our favorite holidays of the year. Thank goodness that spring is just around the corner. We really appreciate those of you who have patronized the post this winter.



**Burger Night Wednesday, March 8.** Burgers will be served from 5-6:30pm. Come in and enjoy our fantastic burger basket for only \$5. These 1/3 lb. burgers are served with all your favorites from the garden and a side of fries. Eat them here or take them to go!!

**Texas Hold 'Em is Friday, March 27.** Play begins at 7pm. Have a great night of fun and friends.

**Weekly Bonus Drawing Night. Tuesday, March 31** is the first bonus drawing night of 2015. There will be 6 drawings of \$50 each commencing at 6:30pm. Members must be qualified for the drawing by consistently entering into the weekly drawing. Grinders and fries will be offered that evening for your dining enjoyment.

Stop by the clubroom and check out our Happenings for the month's appetizer special, birthdays, and events.

## President Sharon

Hi everyone,

Hope everyone is staying warm. We'll be having a speaker at our March meeting and a report on midwinter conference. I hope you can make it. We will be having a bake sale on April 18th when the Squadron is having their breakfast. We need pies, cakes, breads, cookies, rolls. Please start thinking about what you can make. We will need helpers for that day.

Please remember to come to the post for good food and fellowship and being with your friends. Don't forget to sign up for Bingo, we need workers.

The Juniors will meet the first Sunday of the month at the Post.

See you at the post.

## Squadron Commander Keven's Comments

Membership stands at 179 as of meeting night. Target is 188, so we are 9 short. If you have not yet renewed, please do so soon. Many thanks to our membership chairman, Marion Eacret, for his dedication and hard work.

Midwinter Conference was after our meeting (and I was unable to attend) so I will have to talk about it next month.

It is again time to start volunteering to run for squadron offices. All of them will be open for nominations. If you are interested please contact Mike Deacon or Roger Elliott. Being a member of the Executive Board is a great way to start to really learn how the squadron works!

I will also be glad to answer any questions so feel free to contact me also.

We voted to donate \$400.00 to the Story County Veteran's Stand Down, date and time TBA. It is an event which helps those Veterans in Story County who need some assistance. Jobs, food, and money are among those things that will be addressed.

Keep 18 April open. It is the date for our spring Biscuits and Gravy Breakfast. As always, we will be asking members for their assistance. It's a great way to raise money for Squadron projects, have a good meal, and talk to people whom you might not have seen

for a while.

Dave Rehbein is taking applications for American Legion Boys State. If you know of a current High School Junior who might be interested, contact either Dave or myself.

Merit Award applications (used to be known as the SAL Scholarships) are due no later than 15 March. Applications are available from Ames High School, Gilbert High School, or myself. Every little bit helps for college or trade school.

Have a good month and don't let the snow and cold overwhelm you.

## Legislative Priorities—Washington Conference

American Legion family leadership from all over the nation will gather in Washington DC on February 23-25 to present our legislative priorities to the leadership of Congress. We will have individual visits with each of Iowa's Senators and Representatives, three of whom are new to their offices.

The priority issues that we will be discussing are:

- Fully Fund a Superior National Defense and Protect Troops from Sequester Cuts.
- Oppose Further Increases in TRICARE Fees, Including Prescription Drug Fees.



- Continue Reform Efforts to Build a Strong VA.
- Provide Help for Veterans Struggling with Mental Health and Brain Injury.
- VA Claims Backlog.

- Work Opportunities for Veterans in the Private Sector through Government Incentives.
- Ensure Transition Programs are not Adversely Affected by Sequestration.
- End Veteran Homelessness
- Education and Opportunity—the Post 9-11 GI Bill
- Disabled Veterans Tax/widows Tax
- Protect the American Flag

More information regarding these priorities will be available through the Legion website, [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org) as well as through the post following the trip.

## Past President's Parley

The Past President's Parley or PPP as it is commonly known is a program of the American Legion Auxiliary whose membership is composed of past Unit, County, District, Department or higher ALA President's. Membership in the Ames Parley is open to any past president in Story County. The Parley meets at 7 pm on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month during the winter months.

The focus of PPP are women veterans, women currently serving in the military, and recognizing outstanding unit members who do the hard work of service.

As part of that focus, Ames PPP has "adopted" a floor of the Iowa Veterans Home. The residents of that floor include 15 women and 38 men. Each month we have provided holiday themed treats and we were scheduled to sing carols and take Christmas cook-

ies but rampant flu prevented that trip. We did take the cookies though.

In March we will be privileged to have 12 of these veterans visit our Post. On Monday, March 23 at 4:30pm we will be providing dinner for our visitors. Please feel free to stop by and greet them. We are excited to have them visit our Post Home.

Another focus is honoring an outstanding Unit member. The main criterion is that it must be a member who has never served as a Unit President or higher office. If you would like to nominate someone please contact Ann Rehbein at [amrehbein@msn.com](mailto:amrehbein@msn.com). The last focus is honoring women currently serving in the military. You may also contact Ann at the above email with that information.

## Family Nearing Membership Goals—Can You Help?



As we near The American Legion's Birthday we are also nearing the end of the membership drive for the 2015 year. As is often the case, we still have those few members who have not renewed. All three of our organizations are short of our goal for this year. The Post is 23 short of our goal, the Unit is 36 short and the Squadron needs 9 more.

The actual goal number is not the most important part of the membership drive. That most important part is whether we as an organization are growing larger or shrinking in size. Shrinking is simply not an option, not if we want to

maintain the influence we have in Washington, in Des Moines and here in Ames.

Last year when Commander Dellinger called for the resignation of the VA Secretary due to the scandal over delayed care in several of the VA Medical Centers, the only reason that anyone listened and the Secretary eventually resigned was because there were nearly 4 million of us in The American Legion family. Cut that number down by allowing our membership to shrink and no one listens. If no one listens, the Secretary stays in place, no changes get made and we continue with the same problems. That is not an option, not if we care about our veterans in need of help like we say we do.

If you haven't renewed, why not? Don't say it is because you never get down to the post anymore. That is a completely selfish reason and does nothing to help those comrades we say we care about.

Does your neighbor have a flagpole and fly the flag. Odds are he or she is a veteran and probably eligible to be a member. Why not show that you care about those vets waiting care in the VA and ask that neighbor to help by joining.

We know that military service is often a family tradition. American Legion family membership should also be a family tradition. Do you have family members in the military, not just sons or daughters, but also grandchildren? Have you started them on their Legion family career by signing them up or by asking them to join?

Help us stay strong, help us keep our membership growing and by doing that help keep our voice heard by the government in Washington and Des Moines. Membership is everyone's job, **CAN YOU HELP?** Next year when we go to Washington, let's make sure our membership is bigger than it is now. It is everyone's job.



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

## Think Spring



Join us for the **Spring Vendor Fair on Saturday, March 28th from 9:00 am until 3:00 pm** at the Post Home.

We have confirmed the following: Avon, Jamberry Nails, Miche, Norwex, Pampered Chef, Paparazzi, Scentsy, Signature Home Styles, Tastefully Simple, Thirty-One, and Tupperware. Vendor forms are still coming in, so check the flyers at the Post for current list. Spread the word and join us for a great day of shopping with your favorite home based businesses.

## Kudo Korner



Well done to the following this month: Stan & Tammy Hyer, Ann Rehbein, Stan & Joyce Elliot, Mike &

Sandy Deacon, Randy Freel, Bob & Sharon Bellinghausen and Steve Malmquist for the great monthly Steak Dinner in February; Paul & Darlene Madsen, Stan & Tammy Hyer and Sarah Schendel for the Tenderloin Sandwich Dinner; Kathy Link, John Schomaker and Jim Mott for their help on returning bottles to area redemption centers for refund; Kathy Link, Tom Hadaway, Robert Metzger, Jr., Sandy Deacon and Sarah Schendel for another super Burger Night, and; Don Johnson, Randy Freel, Don Miller and all of the volunteers who help out with Bingo each week.

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

# MARCH

<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 TOASTED CHEESE TUESDAY  AUXILIARY REGULAR 7:00	4 WINE DAY WEDNESDAY  BINGO	5 THIRSTY THURSDAY	6  MUNCHIES NIGHT	7  STEAK DINNER 5:30—7:00
8 BINGO	9 BUILDING FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE	10 TOASTED CHEESE TUESDAY  SAL REGULAR 6:30	11 WINE DAY WEDNESDAY  BINGO	12 THIRSTY THURSDAY  LEGION BOARD 6:30 REGULAR 7:45	13  MUNCHIES NIGHT	14
15 BINGO	16	17 TOASTED CHEESE TUESDAY PAST PRESIDENT'S PARLEY 7:00	18 WINE DAY WEDNESDAY BURGER NIGHT 5:00-6:30 BINGO	19 THIRSTY THURSDAY  SOCIAL COMMITTEE 6:00	20  MUNCHIES NIGHT	21
22 BINGO	23 IVH RESIDENTS DINNER	24 TOASTED CHEESE TUESDAY  40&8	25 WINE DAY WEDNESDAY  BINGO	26 THIRSTY THURSDAY  OPERATIONS COMMITTEE 6:00	27 TEXAS HOLD-EM 7:00 MUNCHIES NIGHT	28 VENDOR FAIR 9AM-3PM
29 BINGO	30	31 TOASTED CHEESE TUESDAY BONUS DRAWING NIGHT		Find us on Facebook at <b>American Legion Family of Ames, IA Post 37</b>		