

# Ames Legion Family In Action

## Dues Increase Discussed and Postponed

The increase in the per capita dues that was approved at the 2015 National Convention was discussed at the October Executive Board and General Membership meetings.

This increase means that each members dues that are transmitted to Department Headquarters after January 20, 2016 will be \$5.00 higher than those transmitted before that date.

As you already know from the headline, the decision at the October meetings was NOT to raise membership dues now in response to that increase but to delay further discussion of a dues raise until the 2017 membership year is closer.

Those present at the October meeting hope that the member-

ship of the Ames Post will use the time period between now and January 20 to renew their dues rather than waiting. Renewing early will not make any difference to the member's finances but it will affect the post finances.

The Ames Post leadership works hard to be good stewards of the money our members pay in dues. We understand that our members value the work that is done with their dues money. It is our hope that our members will assist the Post to provide good value by renewing early and saving the Post that \$5.00.

As of 10/15/2015, we are at 377 members or 69.43% of our goal of 543. Last month we were at 64.09% so we are not doing too bad. If you have not renewed your

dues for 2016 please do so and let's get our post to 100% by the end of the year.



**RENEW YOUR DUES NOW  
 BEAT THE DUES INCREASE. HELP YOUR  
 POST SAVE \$5.00**

**Veterans Day Flags Downtown  
 Flags will go up at 7AM, Nov. 7  
 and come down at 4PM, Nov 11.  
 We Need Your Help.**

## Story County Veterans Affairs Office

Board of Supervisors Chairman Rick Sanders was invited to the October 6 Unit meeting to discuss the operation of the Story County Veterans Affairs Office.

The second person in the office, Luke Jensen, recently left his employment in that office for another opportunity working with veterans at Iowa State. With his departure that left County Director Brett McLain as the sole employee of the Commission, resulting in the office being closed whenever Brett was out on business or for personal reasons.

Having the office closed and no one to take calls resulted in frustration on the part of veterans seeking assistance and created a backlog of work.

Board of Supervisors Chairman Rick Sanders talked about that situation in the Story County Veterans Affairs Office. Mr. Sanders gave a review of how our Veterans Affairs Office has been set up in the past and offered his per-

spective on how it may be in the future.

In his opinion, the option that is most likely to be approved is moving the Veterans Affairs Office into space shared with another office.

That would allow creation of an administrative assistant type position to help with answering/returning phone calls, processing paperwork, etc. This would allow the office to remain functional when Brett is out in the communities on doing outreach, attending training or simply on vacation.

Chairman Sanders also expressed the opinion that this change would improve personnel safety by always having more than one person in the office.

The Board of Supervisors was to discuss this possible solution along with other ideas at their October 13 meeting. Unfortunately, that short notice did not allow for any of the Veterans Affairs Commissioners or Director McLain to be present.

The discussion has been placed on the agenda for the November 10 Supervisors meeting. Their meetings begin at 10AM on the 2nd floor of the Story County Courthouse in Nevada. They are open to the public. We need to ensure that the best solution is found to ensure top-quality service to Story County's veterans.

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## Post Commander Stan's Comments

For starters I want to thank Unit 37 President Tammy Hyer for arranging a meeting with Rick Sanders from our Story County Supervisors office. The meeting was very informative and I left feeling like we have a person who is as concerned with the care of our veterans as we are. Unfortunately at the Supervisors meeting on Oct. 12th the agenda was changed and discussion on veterans was delayed due to the Supervisors having other obligations. We as an American Legion Family will stay in touch and follow up with them on any decisions they make.

Many activities going on at the Post this month starting with the monthly dinner on November 7th. This month's dinner is

supported by our SAL Squadron with the help of several Auxiliary and Legion Members.

November 11th is the Veterans Day Program with a lunch to follow at the Post. I encourage everyone who can to get out and be a part of this very special day.

November 28th is a Winter Holiday Showcase

As you can see we have a very busy Legion Family taking on several ideas and activities. If you can help or wish to volunteer with any of these projects please contact me at my email, [selliot-1478@gmail.com](mailto:selliot-1478@gmail.com) and I can put you in touch with the correct person or per-

sons. We appreciate any help and support we can get.

With Thanksgiving fast approaching I ask that we take a moment and give thanks for all the blessings in our lives. I know we struggle at times and have trouble understanding what and why things happen to ourselves and others. But even when times seem the darkest I have learned over the years there is always something to be thankful for. One thing I am personally thankful for is our American Legion Family and everything we do to better America and help our Veterans.

Have a great November and a Happy Thanksgiving.

## Unit President Tammy's Comments

Hi, everyone! It's hard to believe another month has passed. There are so many things going on that time just flies!

October 3<sup>rd</sup> was the Auxiliary's Steak night. A big THANK YOU to everyone who helped to make the night go smoothly! Due to unforeseen illness, some of those volunteering had little notice to respond. And thank you to those who took time to attend the dinner. As I mentioned above, there is always something going on and we're honored you chose to attend our event!

October 3<sup>rd</sup> was also 6<sup>th</sup> District Conference in Nevada. The group discussed many topics. Here are a few: Wear Red on Fridays campaign, have a host at unit meetings to greet members, advertise the scholarships that are available through the Legion, support volunteering, work on projects that support your local veterans, and the mentoring/mentee program.

Commander Stan, Squadron Commander Roger and I have been talking

a lot lately about membership. At the 6<sup>th</sup> District Conference, Ames Unit #37 of the American Legion Auxiliary was presented a certificate for meeting our 40% membership goal by the Air Force's birthday of September 18, 2015! In honor of our Armed Forces, Unit membership award dates for 2015/2016 coincide with birthdays of the branches of our military.

On October 4<sup>th</sup>, Story County did their send off for the fourth and potentially final Freedom Flight. Thank you to Sharon Bellinghausen for arranging to have flags available to hand out to those who attended and for being there to hand them out. The Past Presidents Parley prepared letters from Ames Unit #37 for the Veterans to read at mail call. The Legion Riders did a fantastic job of representing our Legion Family by providing the Veterans with a motorcycle escort and flag line. And I'm sure the veterans appreciated seeing members of our Legion Family at the ceremony.

As I mentioned at the October meeting,

I have volunteered the Auxiliary to do our "Holiday for Heroes" project as part of a Main Street Cultural District event on December 5<sup>th</sup>. We'll have more discussion at our November meeting.

Jammie Phillips and Andrea Groneau have been working with the City of Ames to get the Veterans Memorial looking better. Jammie has gotten permission to work on the flowers, bushes and trees around the Memorial. Andrea has a group of volunteers from the Volunteer Center of Story County who are willing to work on the wall and the limestone. Thank you ladies for getting this important project moving forward!

Something I haven't mentioned yet is the Five year strategic plan put together by National. The five goals they set are as follows: Goal 5 – With The American Legion, Build Brand Loyalty, Goal 4 – Strengthen Departments and Units, Goal 3 – Develop Leadership at all Levels, Goal 2 – Create an Internal Culture of Goodwill, Goal 1 – Attain a Million Members. I'll be talking about this in future newsletters.

## Academic Awards Largest Crowd Ever

The Legion family and the Ames School District recognized 210 juniors and seniors at Ames High School for their academic achievement on October 19. A crowd estimated at 450 witnessed the convocation and applauded the young men and women as each received their letter or in the case of many of the seniors, a pin denoting the second award since they received a letter during their junior year.

This was the largest crowd in the memory of many of the Legion family workers. That is also reflected in the compliments given to these classes by Superintendent Spence Evans. He made very positive comments about the leadership displayed by this year's senior class and that the junior class was very capably following in their footsteps.



## Sunday Brunch

November 15 11am-1pm

Please join us for Sunday Brunch!! Enjoy a delightful mix of all your favorite breakfast and lunch dishes. Help us to celebrate the flavors of fall. Brunch is a free will donation to benefit the building fund. We look forward to seeing you there.

## Clubroom News

The Holiday season is fast approaching and the post is gearing up for many great activities. Now is the time that we all can focus on being thankful; for our health, our friends and family, and those little moments everyday that put a smile on our faces.

**Wednesday, November 18 is Burger Basket Night.** Burgers will be served from 5-6:30pm. We invite you to indulge in this 1/3lb. Burger and French fries for only \$5.00. We also take orders To-Go. Call ahead of you like and we will have them ready for you. 232-9870.

**Thursday, November 27 Clubroom Closed-** Happy Thanksgiving!!

**Friday, November 27 the Clubroom opens at noon.** Take a break from your black Friday shopping, or join us for a football game or two. The Clubroom offers the perfect location for food, drinks, and more. Let's munchie all day long!! Bring in your best leftovers sweet or savory.

Don't forget that we have a little 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.

Stop in and take advantage of the last ISU game day specials. Enjoy pint draws of Busch Light for \$1.75, buckets of beer for \$11, and Bloody Marys. Don't forget to bring a munchie to share!!

## Squadron Commander Roger's Comments

On Oct 19 I had the honor of participating in the recognition of 210 Ames High School junior and senior students for their academic achievements. As our Legion Commander and then the Auxiliary President gave their kudos to these students, I looked out over the crowd and was struck by the realization that the future of our country will someday rest upon these young people and their peers.

When I graduated from Ames High, basic calculators were extravagances that most of us could not afford, a computer took up a room, and cell phones were unheard of. In a relatively short span of time, technology has grown by leaps and bounds. Who knows what sorts of advancements these young people will see or perhaps even be the impetus of creating.

One thing is certain, they need to know that the freedom they enjoy in this country allows them to be individuals who can pursue their dreams. To truly do that, they need to understand how those freedoms came to exist and for whose sacrifices they need to give thanks.

How many of them understand the ugliness of war that sometimes cannot be avoided? Do they fully grasp the privilege of the freedom that all too many often take for granted?

Whenever you have the opportunity, take the time to share your wisdom and experiences. Help our young people learn to appreciate those who have served in our armed forces. I can recall eagerly listening to my father on the few occasions when he would talk about his time in the Army. I bet that your children, grandchildren, and other family members would love to hear you speak of your experiences or those of your father or mother.

As was mentioned in last month's newsletter, the S.A.L. will be hosting the November 7<sup>th</sup> supper at the Post. We are still looking for a few volunteers to help out with serving food, refilling drinks, and possibly a helper or two for the kitchen. If you are able to help (you don't have to be a S.A.L. member), please let me know as soon as possible. Shoot me an e-mail at [rog-well83@gmail.com](mailto:rog-well83@gmail.com) or give me a call at 515-290-5737. I'd appreciate your help.

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

## Winter Holiday Showcase

**November 28 9am-3pm**

Stop by on small business Saturday to enjoy all your favorite independent representatives and crafters. It's a great time to start or finish up your holiday shopping. Enjoy fun and unique items, cash and carry will be available. The Legion is happy to host: A2V Apparel, Avon, Crocheted by Joyce, Moon Dog Jewelry, Origami Owl, Pampered Chef, Premiere Designs, Scentcy, Tastefully Simple, Tupperware, and more.

## Special Thanks for Help

We would like to give a very special thank you to Upward bound for their help in painting the kitchen and the other cleaning they did at the post.

Also a big thank you to Winfield-Story City that finished painting the kitchen and cleaned up the veterans memorial on the United Way Day of Caring.

## Kudo Korner

**THANK YOU** Well done to the following this month for their volunteer efforts at the Post: Stan & Tammy Hyer, Connie Roberts, Kathy MacCrea, Bob & Sharon Bellinghausen, Ann & Dave Rehbein, Jammie Phillips, Meghan White, Andrea Gronau, LaVonne Treadway, Dee Ball and Pat Kyle for their work at the October Steak Dinner; Stan & Tammy Hyer, Mike Deacon & Sandy Deacon, Hank Goettsche, Roger Elliott, Pat Phillips and Sarah Schendel for putting on another great Burger Night under some trying equipment challenges; Tom Hadaway for conducting some urgent equipment repairs, and; Paul Madsen and Megan McEnany for a super Tenderloin Sandwich 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 **NOVEMBER**

<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 <span style="font-size: small;">SDAY</span> WEDNESDAY	5 THIRSTY THURSDAY	6 MUNCHIES NIGHT	7 VETERANS DAY STORYTIME @ LIBRARY  STEAK DINNER 5:30—7:00
8 BINGO	9 BUILDING FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE	10 TOASTED CHEESE TUESDAY  SAL REGULAR 6:30	11 WINE <span style="font-size: small;">SDAY</span> WEDNESDAY VETERANS DAY LUNCHEON	12 THIRSTY THURSDAY  LEGION BOARD 6:30 REGULAR 7:30	13 MUNCHIES NIGHT	14
15 SUNDAY BRUNCH 11AM-1PM BINGO	16	17 TOASTED CHEESE TUESDAY PAST PRESIDENT'S PARLEY 7:00	18 WINE <span style="font-size: small;">SDAY</span> WEDNESDAY BURGER NITE 5:00-6:30 BINGO	19 THIRSTY THURSDAY  COMMITTEES SOCIAL 6:00 OPERATIONS 6:30	20 MUNCHIES NIGHT	21
22 BINGO	23	24 TOASTED CHEESE TUESDAY  40&8	25 WINE <span style="font-size: small;">SDAY</span> WEDNESDAY	26 THANKSGIVING CLUBROOM CLOSED	27 CLUBROOM OPEN @ NOON COME SNACK ON LEFTOVERS	28 VENDOR AND CRAFT SHOW 9AM—3PM
29 BINGO	30 	Find us on Facebook at <b>American Legion Family of Ames, IA Post 37</b>			<b>NEEDED—VOLUNTEER TO DEEP CLEAN BATHROOMS AT POST EACH WEEK. CONTACT SARAH.</b>	