

Ames Legion Family In Action

WHY SHOULD I STAY A MEMBER IN THE LEGION FAMILY?

Every year at this time the Post, Unit and Squadron begin that final push in our membership drives. We come to the end of the year and work to renew the dues of those members who were enrolled for the 2015 year but who have not yet renewed for 2016.

Too often as we go about the work of contacting those who have not yet renewed, we hear "I don't get to the Post any more because of work/health/family/other reason." Having a Post home and providing the social activities there has always been a big part of the Ames Legion family but it is far from being the only thing that makes Legion family membership important.

Membership in the Legion family helps the young people of Ames. Academic awards, Boys and Girls



State, scholarships, Oratorical and Shooting Sports, we do a lot for the young people.

We support the community through donations, participation in downtown activities, taking care of the Main Street flags on patriotic holidays and being part of Memorial and Veterans Day ceremonies.

Over the last two years, The American Legion has led the fight to reform and improve the VA, not just by identifying problems but by sending teams to help get veterans off the waiting lists

both in the healthcare and claims systems. The websites, www.ialegion.org and www.legion.org have much information on the Legion's work.

This work is not done by the Legionnaires alone. The Auxiliary and SAL are a big part of what the Legion family does. Their membership helps just as much as ours. If you have renewed for 2016 in the Legion family, **THANK YOU**. If not, there is no better time than now. Give yourself a gift of another year of membership in the Ames Legion family.

Dues are \$40 for Legionnaires, \$25 for Senior Auxiliary members and \$5 for Juniors, \$40 for Senior SAL members and \$10 for dual members (Legion & SAL) and \$10 for those under 21. Keeping your membership keeps us strong.

Renewals, Dues Increase and Paid Up For Life

It is common knowledge, or should be by now, that the National dues will increase by \$5 on January 16. In the short term, that means almost nothing to anyone reading this, since anyone who has a 2016 card paid at the old rate and anyone who renews now will still pay at the old rate since the Ames Post has chosen to absorb the increase until the 2017 membership year begins.

It does mean though that anyone who is considering renewing now should do it soon since renewing in time for the Post to transmit those dues by January 15 will save the

Post that \$5.

In the long term though, there is something to be gained by everyone. The Paid Up For Life (PUFL) program is set up to allow a Legionnaire to renew for life in one payment or in 12 monthly payments.

Information is available at www.legion.org/join/pufl. Remember the amounts quoted may only last until the dues increase. Our Post has quite a number of PUFL members now. Why continue to pay annually when you can make one payment now and keep your membership alive for life?

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Post Commander Stan's Comments

As I sit here reflecting on the last year, we as a post family did a great job in reducing our building remodeling loan to the point that we could refinance early at a lower rate. In five years we will have another balloon payment come due and possibly have to refinance again, but, wouldn't it be great if we could have the loan paid off by then. A lot of our Legion Family members are doing a great job of raising extra funds every month and others making donations, with those monies going straight to the principal. I fully understand we are all busy but let's all resolve to pitch in and do what we can to help get from under this debt.

As always we need help with bingo, dinners and fund raising projects. I know we are all busy, but if you can volunteer to help one day or evening a month for any of these I know the various committees overseeing these activities will be very appreciative.

I 100% support the American Legion's Americanism Programs. Nothing pleases me more than watching our youth strive for excellence in these programs. Over the years I've been involved in these programs, currently chairing the Department Commission. With my involvement, it pleases me to report on what happened at our post in December.

Jake Strohm from the Izaak Walton League has taken over the coaching duties for the Junior Shooting Sports Team that we sponsor jointly with the Ikes. They practice on Sunday afternoons at the indoor range out at the Ikes, if you are a member of the Ikes I encourage you to go out some Sunday afternoon and meet the coach and team. If you are not a member contact me at selliott478@gmail.com or home phone 515-382-5768 and we will set up a time to get you out there as a guest. Remember to keep March 12th open and plan on attending the Department JSSP Competition at Camp Dodge and support our team.

The second piece of great news is we had Josie Dubiel from Ames and Noah Brinkmeyer from Gilbert compete in our Oratorical Contest as part of our December Meeting. Both young adults did a fantastic job with their orations with Josie taking first place. The Story County Council currently has plans to hold a county contest on January 3rd at the post, please come out and help support this contest if you can. The District contest is on January 17th at Baldwin Patterson Post in Des Moines with the Area contest on January 24th in Maxwell. The Department finals are held at the Mid-Winter Conference on February 14th.

Membership is at 79.93% as of December 17. If you have not paid your dues, please do so.

Hope you all enjoyed the Holidays with family and friends and thank you for all you do with our Post and the American Legion.

Unit President Tammy's Comments

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Welcome 2016!

On December 5, 2015, the Main Street Cultural District hosted Christmas Traditions Day. As part of this celebration, the Auxiliary sold our Holiday for Heroes Christmas tree ornaments. The Holiday for Heroes program raises funds to assist a veteran and his/her family in Ames by providing gifts and essentials for the holidays. We also had nuts and candy for sale from our October/November fund raiser. Thank you to Kathy, Sandy and Ann for making the event a success.

December 12th was our annual cookie fair. It was a beautiful day and we saw one of the best crowds for the SAL breakfast and the Auxiliary cookie fair ever. Our Auxiliary members came through and donated over 300

dozen cookies. To everyone's surprise, ALL the cookies were gone before 10:30! Thank you to everyone who took time out of their busy schedules to provide cookies and to help on Saturday. Together we had another terrific cookie fair!

Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday January 5th at 7:00 pm. There are a few items that were tabled at our December meeting that will be discussed at our January meeting.

- January 20th is the 2016 Veterans Day at the Capitol. We will revisit who wants to attend and the possibility of carpooling.
- The possibility of changing our meeting start time from 7:00 pm to 6:30 pm was mentioned. This would take a vote to change our

standing rules.

- A suggestion from a Department meeting was to have a greeting committee for our regular meetings in an effort to make everyone feel welcome. At the December meeting, a few options were mentioned – use the serving committee, the distinguished guest committee, or the Sergeant at Arms.

Remember to keep the men and women of our "past and present" military in your thoughts and prayers as we look to the "future" in 2016. And say thank you.

Upcoming events:

Jan 2: Auxiliary hosts steak night

Jan : Regular meeting

Feb 2: Regular meeting

Feb 12–14: Mid Winter Conference



Chicken & Noodles Dinner—January 15

Please join us on Friday, January 15 for home-made Chicken and Noodles served over mashed potatoes. Dinner will be served from 5:30-7pm. This dinner is a free will donation to benefit the building fund. When it is cold outside there is nothing more comforting, and it is for a great cause.



Clubroom News

Happy New Year to all!! We hope that everyone had a joyous Holiday season. December was very busy in the Clubroom and we want to thank everyone for your continued support. Thanks to everyone who volunteered, we can't do it without you!!

Bring it on!!! We want you to bring down your very best chili for our **Annual Chili Cook-off**. You may drop off your chili on the 31st or the morning of the 1st. We also encourage those not competing to bring a snack to share. There are prizes for first, second, and third place. As a bonus, the winner has bragging rights all year long. Of Course, all are welcome to come in and sample all the delicious entries and watch some football.

Don't forget that the post is the ultimate place to enjoy all the bowl game action. We encourage you to stop down and

enjoy all the football games with us on our enormous TV.

Join Today!! The Clubroom will be having a Wii Bowling League. Bowling leagues are a great way to spend time with friends, co-workers or family. The cost is \$1 per person per week and bowlers must bowl 3 games per week. Stop into the post to sign up and get the full details.

Drop by and check out our Happenings! Find out about new drinks, appetizer specials and a whole lot more! Don't forget that the clubroom serves a great home-made meal every Wednesday; eat in or take it to go.

Wednesday, January 20 is Burger Basket Night. Burgers are served for 5 -6:30pm and as usual only \$5 served with all your favorite toppings and French fries. Stop in and enjoy one or get it to go!!!

Squadron Commander Roger's Comments

Another year is behind us and we are now whittling away at 2016. Before we realize it, it also will be in the history books. I hope that this past year has been full of good memories and that you will be blessed with more good things in the New Year.

For me, when I look back on 2015, one of my good memories will be that of accepting the position of commander for the S.A.L. Since I am a relatively new member of the squadron, I am not as familiar with all of the nuances of the job as I would like to be. It has had its share of confusion and stress, but overall, it has been good. There have been a number of men who have been in my shoes in the past and they have been wonderful sources of encouragement and guidance. Thank you for your support.

In 2016, I am hopeful that more of our members will become involved in the activities of the squadron. There will be multiple opportunities for each of us to lend a hand as we work to serve those who have served our country. You can help by attending our monthly squadron meeting, serving on a sub-committee, helping at one of our functions, or through your financial support by attending our functions as a guest. Whatever you can do, in a small or great way, will be appreciated.

Here is some good news to start out the New Year. This squadron hosts the

annual Squadron Scholarship which allows senior high school students to complete in an essay competition if they meet certain requirements. Depending upon the number of applicants and the quality of their essay, a student could receive a \$1000 scholarship or two students could each receive \$500 scholarships. In the past, this opportunity was limited to students who attend in Ames or Gilbert. It is my privilege to announce a change in the policy of the Squadron Scholarship. The following motion was approved at our last meeting:

To Allow Descendants of Ames American Legion Post # 37, American Legion Auxiliary Unit # 37 & Sons of The American Legion Squadron # 37 to be Eligible to apply for the Squadron Scholarship and to Include Immediate Family members of the same Post, Unit & Squadron # 37.

This means that our children may now apply for the scholarship even if they do not attend school in Ames or Gilbert. Please contact me if you wish to learn more about this new opportunity. My e-mail address is rogwell83@gmail.com.

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

Kudo Korner



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

Deacon, Ken Woodley and Sarah Schendel for organizing and setting up the Holiday Showcase shopping event; Stan Hyer for repairing and upgrading the interior doors around the Post; Stan & Joyce Elliott, Kathy MacCrea, Tammy Hyer, Bob & Sharon Bellinghausen, Pat Phillips, Randy Freel, Sandy Deacon, Dennis Vincent, Jim Demarest and Denny Krogh for the December Steak Dinner; Dave Rehbein for writing, preparing and mailing the Monthly Newsletter each month; Sandy Deacon for preparing the Newsletter address labels each month; Dave & Ann Rehbein, Marion Eacret, Everett & Marion Freel, Sandy Deacon, Sue Jones, Kathy MacCrea, Jan Schmidt, Sarah Schendel and the Bar Staff for folding, sealing and addressing the Newsletters each month; the members of the Auxiliary for another great Holiday Cookie Fair; the SAL for a wonderful Biscuits and Gravy Breakfast; Dave Rehbein, Pat Phillips, Frank Andrew and Stan Elliott for helping with the Oratorical contest; John Klaus, Ann Rehbein and Sandy Deacon for judging the Oratorical contest; Melissa & Michelle McEnany, Tom Hadaway, Junior Metzger, Kathy Link, Stan & Tammy Hyer, Sandy Deacon and Sarah Schendel for record-breaking Burger Night with Santa.



One More Christmas Gift?

After all the presents are unwrapped at your house, consider giving one more gift, a gift to the building fund of the Ames American Legion Post. That gift will help ensure that we can continue the work we do and will also be deductible at tax time. Address your gift to Finance Officer Randy Freel at the post.

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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US POSTAGE PAID Permit 147 Ames, IA

LOOK INSIDE FOR COUPON

JANUARY

<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 CHILI COOK-OFF	2 STEAK DINNER 5:30—7:00
3 BINGO	4 LEGION RIDERS 6:30	5 TOASTED CHEESE TUESDAY AUXILIARY REGULAR 7:00	6 WINEDAY WEDNESDAY BINGO	7 THIRSTY THURSDAY SOCIAL COMMITTEE 6:00	8 MUNCHIES NIGHT	9
10 BINGO	11 BUILDING FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE	12 TOASTED CHEESE TUESDAY SAL REGULAR 6:30	13 WINEDAY WEDNESDAY BINGO	14 THIRSTY THURSDAY LEGION BOARD 6:30 REGULAR 7:30	15 CHICKEN & NOODLES 5:30-7:00	16
17 BINGO	18	19 TOASTED CHEESE TUESDAY	20 WINEDAY WEDNESDAY BURGER BAS- KET 5:00-6:30 BINGO	21 THIRSTY THURSDAY STORY COUNTY LEGION MEETING	22 MUNCHIES NIGHT	23
24 BINGO 31 BINGO	25	26 TOASTED CHEESE TUESDAY 40&8	27 WINEDAY WEDNESDAY BINGO	28 THIRSTY THURSDAY OPERATIONS COMMITTEE 6:00	29 MUNCHIES NIGHT	30