

# Ames Legion Family In Action

## AMES LEGION FAMILY ARE LEADERS AT CONVENTION

The Ames Legion family had a very enjoyable and rewarding experience at the Department Convention.

Without actually counting heads, it is safe to say that over 20 members of the Ames Legion family attended the convention and played a role in each of the three meetings.



Commander Phillips and Newsletter Editor Rehbein received the awards for the best Children & Youth program in

our membership category and the best newsletter in the e-mail category.

Sandy Deacon received the award for the Unit for the top VA&R report in the Department. That report will be forwarded to National for judging. President Jammie reports on other awards in her column.

Elections for the SAL Detachment saw Mike Monserud elected as one of the Vice-Commanders



for the coming year.

Several Legionnaires played leadership roles in the convention with Jennifer Monserud serving as Sgt-at-Arms and Pat Phillips, Stan Elliott, Randy Freel and Jim Demarest reporting on various areas for the past year.

Pat Phillips and Stan Elliott chaired the convention committees on VA&R and Americanism.

Be assured that your membership in the Ames Legion family means you belong to one of the strongest groups in Iowa. Just by being a member you are contributing to your Legion family providing leadership in the Department of Iowa.

2017 is being a great year with 2018 promising to be even better.

### Boys State Reports & Baseball at Meetings

The Sons of The American Legion Squadron and American Legion Post meetings will have an extra attraction in August. Boys Staters will be present at the Squadron meeting on August 8 and the Post meeting on August 10 to tell us about their experiences during the week at Camp Dodge.

John Howell will speak at the Squadron meeting and Seth Breyfogle will attend the Post meeting. Joel Stahr is unavailable in August but will attend the

Squadron meeting in September. We are still arranging a time for Jason Taylor.

Legionnaires are welcome at the Squadron meeting and the same is true for SAL members at the Post meeting. Come listen to these fine young men.

Be sure to add September's Post meeting to your calendar. We will be recognizing the Most Valuable Player from the 2017 Ames Post American Legion Baseball during that meeting.

#### Inside this issue:

Post Commander	2
Unit President	2
Squadron Commander	2
Clubroom Events	3
Legislative Action	3
Time to Renew	3
Calendar	4

## Post Commander Pat's Comments

Greeting fellow Legionnaires! What a great month of July and even more to look forward to in August. To start with we had an outstanding Installation of Officers on July 10<sup>th</sup>. We have an exceptional group of veterans leading our organization this year and we even have a new Historian, Anthony Perdue, who will be filling this long overdue vacancy. To all installed officers, your year of service started at the end of the Department Convention on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of July. A special thanks to the Sons of the American Legion Squadron for hosting this year's installation.

I am writing this short article after spending the last three days in Des Moines at the Department Convention. Our post had a great turnout and came home with numerous awards. Our electronic newsletter, Dave Rehbein editor, took the top prize in that category. Our post also received the Children and Youth Award for posts of over 500 members based on our hours of volunteer work reported on the Consolidated Post Report.



In addition, our 6<sup>th</sup> District Hospitality Room was voted the best in the Department. Kudos to our own Dana Thompson for another outstanding job as the host for our Hospitality Room. Great job Legionnaires!

At the Department Convention, Mike Etzel from the Marion Post in District 2, was installed as the Department Commander for the 17/18 year. In addition we had members assigned to Department Committees and Commissions.

Doug MacCrea is tagged to be the Secretary for the Department's Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission. I was assigned to be the next Chairmen for the Department's American Legion Riders Committee. There are others in the Post that will be serving on Department committees. We will publish the complete list when it is released.

There are many Committees and Commissions that you can apply for. It is an excellent experience and a great way to learn about how the Legion works at the Post, District, Department and even National level.

Lastly, I want to personally thank our membership for entrusting me to be your Commander for the next year. As our post continues to grow and succeed, it is due to you and your membership. If we falter occasionally, that responsibility rests on my shoulders. Excellent advice from our new Department Commander. I will strive to make our post even better than last year with your help and involvement. Thanks again.

## Unit President Jammie's Comments

Greetings Ladies!

As expected July was an eventful month for the Auxiliary. Sandi Lawrence started our month off on a positive note and really jumped into her new role as Americanism Chairman with both feet. She did a fabulous job leading the flag etiquette demonstration for story time at the Ames Public Library. This was a great opportunity to educate the youth about the flag and patriotism. Thank you Sandi, Marv Holmgren and Bob Bellinghausen for doing an outstanding job.

Several unit officers and members attended the Department Convention this year in Des Moines. Ames was well

represented and our unit came home with several awards and recognitions. Congratulations to Sandy Deacon who's 2016/2017 VA&R report received 1<sup>st</sup> place and was sent on to National for consideration. Unit 37 also received an Honorable Mention for Americanism and recognition for Education, Children & Youth, Poppies and History Book. We ended the convention with a kickoff for the 2017/2018 membership drive where we were able to turn in 49 members.

August poses to be just as busy as July. The unit meeting will be on Tuesday August 1<sup>st</sup> beginning at 6:30 p.m. Elena Andrews, one of our Girls Staters, will

be at the meeting to report on her experience in that program.

Department Leadership Workshop will be on Saturday August 12<sup>th</sup>. The American Legion Walk for Veterans at the Iowa State Fair will be on Monday August 14<sup>th</sup>. We definitely can't forget the National Convention August 18<sup>th</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup>. If you are looking for something to do, I think we have you covered.

Finally, I wish to express my gratitude again to all of you who have offered leadership, support and mentoring. I am honored to have been given the opportunity to work with you and I know we are going to have an outstanding year!

## Squadron Commander Mike's Comments

Hello Ames American Legion Family. I am Hoping that I can do as Good of a Job as Commander this year as Commander Roger Elliott has done for the Past 2 Years. We all owe him a Great Deal of Thanks.

We are entering new year and it is My hope to surpass last year's accomplishments, to do this we must work together to make this happen. Our New Officers this year are ready to do whatever it

takes to make The Ames Squadron the best in the State, Again.

We have just returned from Detachment Convention where one of our members, Michael Monserud was elected as a Detachment Vice Commander. I know that He will do a great job and represent the Organization Proud.

Please try to attend our August meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. I would like to

know what you, the members would like to see us get involved in. We are always looking for volunteers to help us with our projects, one being BINGO. Please just think about it.

I am really looking forward to working with Commander Pat and President Jammie. I know that it will be a Great Year. Bottom Line is that We all Need to Work together to Keep The American Legion Family Strong, here in Ames.

## 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 in August:

**Wednesday, August 16 is Burger Basket Night.** Burgers will be served from 5-6:30pm. Burgers 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**

**Taco Tuesday-** Choose between a soft shell or walking taco and then add all your favorite toppings for just \$2

**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. 6-8 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, \$3 Mimosa's and \$2 Domestic Pints.

The Repurpose Reuse Market will happen on Main Street from 10-4 on August 27. The Post will be serving food outdoors as part of that event. Stop by if you are at the Market or just come downtown for a bite.

Kudos:

Thanks to all who helped out at the post in the last month!! It is very much appreciated. Sandy Deacon, Mike Deacon, Michelle Sime, Ken Woodley, Rodger Van Voorhis, Gary Freel, Leonard Springer, Roger Lawrence, Russ Belz, Vicki Belz, Roger Elliott, and Hank Goettsche.

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

## It is Time To Renew

The Ames Legion family has begun work on their membership efforts for 2018. Now is a great time for you to renew for another year. You won't find a better Legion family in Iowa.

Dues are \$45 for the Post, \$30 for senior Unit members and \$5 for Junior members, \$45 for Squadron members over 21 and \$10 for SAL members under 21 and \$10 for dual members (members in the Post and also in either the Unit or Squadron).

The Post and Squadron met their membership goals last year. Let's get everyone in the Legion family growing this year. You can help by renewing now. Every one that steps forward is one less that we need to contact.

## Legion Active on Legislative Issues in Washington

Legislation has begun moving in Washington on three issues that The American Legion has as our priorities. Our lobbying staff and legislative division have been busy over the last few weeks monitoring activity and at times calling on the Legionnaires across the country to contact their Representatives and Senators.

You may read this article as addressing three separate issues but in DC it is never that simple. It is the nature of politics that all issues overlap and progress on one issue of importance may lead to loss of focus on another. Our professional staff is working hard to keep that from happening.

**American Legion Commemorative Coin:** As part of our preparations for the Centennial of The American Legion, we are requesting legislative authorizing the US Mint to strike a commemorative coin in honor of those 100 years of our existence and work. Only two of those coins are allowed each year and as you would guess, there are many requests for them.

Authorization for the Mint to strike that coin requires approval from a 2/3 vote in each of the Senate and House. We are working to get that 2/3 majority signed on as our co-sponsors. In Iowa all of our Representatives have joined



that effort but neither of our Senators has yet become a co-sponsor. Your help would be very useful there. You can contact through their offices or through the Legion's legislative area at [www.legion.org/legislative](http://www.legion.org/legislative).

**Veterans Choice Act Funding:** The Veterans Choice Act allows veterans who meet certain criteria to obtain health care at their local medical clinic at VA cost rather travelling to the VAMC or CBOC nearest to them.

This program has proven to be very popular with many veterans applying and meeting the eligibility criteria, many more than was apparently anticipated since funding for the program has begun to run short with several months of the fiscal year remaining.

A House bill that was defeated would have increased funding for the Choice

Program by redirecting money being used for other VA programs, a proposal that the Legion and other VSOs opposed.

Among other changes, this bill would have extended pension reductions for Medicaid-eligible veterans in nursing facilities and continued fees on VA-guaranteed home loans. This legislation became so unpopular that the ranking member of the House Veterans Affairs committee, Tim Walz (MN) announced his opposition on the floor of the House.

**GI Bill Improvements:** This legislation, known as the Harry Colmery Forever GI Bill, makes improvements to the current GI Bill that we strongly support.

The requirement that veterans use their GI Bill benefits within 15 years would be removed. Benefits would be expanded for reservists, Purple Heart recipients and surviving dependents. Benefits would be retroactively restored for veterans affected by school closings and additional benefits would be available for veterans studying in the STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) areas.

The legislation is gaining momentum in the Congress with passage in the House and action expected in the Senate.

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

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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	Facebook at American Legion Family of Ames, IA Post 37	<b>1</b> TACO TUESDAY  AUXILIARY REGULAR 6:30	<b>2</b> WINESDAY WEDNESDAY  BINGO	<b>3</b> DOLLAR DOG DAY	<b>4</b> FIREBALL FRIDAY  MUNCHIES NIGHT	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b>  BINGO	<b>7</b>  DINNER RIDE OGDEN	<b>8</b> TACO TUESDAY  SAL REGULAR 6:30	<b>9</b> WINESDAY WEDNESDAY  BINGO	<b>10</b> DOLLAR DOG DAY  LEGION BOARD 6:30 REGULAR 7:30	<b>11</b> FIREBALL FRIDAY  MUNCHIES NIGHT	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b>  BINGO	<b>14</b>  DINNER RIDE	<b>15</b> TACO TUESDAY	<b>16</b> WINESDAY WEDNESDAY  BURGER BASKET 5-6:30 BINGO	<b>17</b> DOLLAR DOG DAY	<b>18</b> FIREBALL FRIDAY  MUNCHIES NIGHT	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b>  BINGO	<b>21</b>  DINNER RIDE AMES MOOSE	<b>22</b> TACO TUESDAY  40&8	<b>23</b> WINESDAY WEDNESDAY  BINGO	<b>24</b> DOLLAR DOG DAY  OPERATIONS COMMITTEE 6:00	<b>25</b> FIREBALL FRIDAY  MUNCHIES NIGHT	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> REPURPOSE REUSE MARKET BINGO	<b>28</b>  DINNER RIDE ANKENY	<b>29</b> TACO TUESDAY	<b>30</b> WINESDAY WEDNESDAY  BINGO	<b>31</b> DOLLAR DOG DAY		