

LEGIONNAIRES GIVE PRIORITIES TO LEGISLATORS

You may have seen a picture of Ames Legionnaires taken with Senator Herman Quirnbach at the Iowa State Capitol. That picture was taken during the annual Veterans Day at the Capitol event.

That event happens each year to remind our legislators that there still remain veterans issues that need to be addressed.

This year's priorities are:

Veterans Treatment Courts. Grouping justice-involved veterans into a specific court docket significantly expedites access to veteran-specific resources, including benefits and treatment earned through military service and provides options for treatment as opposed to incarceration.

A successful model exists in Woodbury County that we urged the legislators to expand.



Support Licensure and Certification of Servicemembers and Veterans

We request that the Governor of Iowa, the Iowa Legislature and all Departments and branches of the Government of Iowa as well as all counties and municipalities take appropriate steps to ensure that servicemembers and veterans be trained, tested and evaluated and that they have the opportunity to obtain a credential (i.e., licensure, certification, certificate, degree, etc.) that may be required in the civilian workforce.

Homebase Iowa has been very instrumental in this area. The current priority that we spoke to legislators about is the first response, EMT and firefighter areas.

Support Funding for Existing Veteran Benefits.

Adequate funding is needed for existing programs including Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs, Iowa Veterans Cemetery, Iowa Veterans Trust Fund, Iowa Veterans Home, Military Home Ownership Program, Injured Veteran Grant Program and County Veterans Affairs Allocation Funds.

Veterans Property Tax Exemption

The American Legion requests the State of Iowa adjust the veterans' property tax exemption to \$5,000. There have been no increases in this area in many years. We believe that it is far past time for an increase.

NATIONAL VICE-COMMANDER TO VISIT



The Department of Iowa is hosting National Vice-Commander Doug Boldt of Nebraska on a membership tour and has asked the Ames Legion

family to kick off the week-long tour at our post.

This is an important week. In the last several years, Iowa has been in the top 10 nationally

until Midwinter Conference and then begun to drop down the list. Other states have moved past us during the important late-winter/early spring period. Iowa's leadership is depending on us to get the tour started off right. Commander Phillips talks about a membership project in his article. We want to be above our membership goal by the time NVC Boldt gets to the Post and better yet by Midwinter. It is up to all of us.

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Post Commander Pat's Comments

Greetings Legion Family. I am thankful for another great month at the Post. We have had many great events and socials in January and look forward to a great February. If you haven't been to the post lately, come on down and join in the festivities.

We are in the final drive for Membership this month. Our goal is 519 Legionnaires and we are currently at 490. We have an outstanding membership team working on putting us at our goal by Mid-Winter Conference in early February.

A great Thank You goes to Denny Krogh, Dave Rehbein and Marion Eacret for putting together this final push. We have 6 two person teams canvassing our membership to make up this deficit and I have total confidence that we will make it! If you know of anyone who needs to renew or who would like to join our ranks, now is the time to knock on a few doors or make a few

phone calls.

We have the National Vice Commander, Doug Boldt, coming to visit the post on the evening of the 20th of February as part of a membership tour. We would love to present him with a 100%+ total for the post.

I am very impressed with the number of new faces we are beginning to see at the post. It's really nice to see such great crowds coming to enjoy the evenings and the dinners. It is vitally important to see a revitalization of the post. Many great things are happening and the thanks goes to our great staff, volunteers and most importantly YOU! A great example was the recent Fish Fry on the 20th of January where we served 98 meals that evening. I'm truly impressed!

I would like to take a moment to offer a personal thank you to Doug MacCrea.

Doug has done a "Yeoman's Job" (the only Navy term I know) over the last year keeping our post operational with the help of the operations committee. He is the reason we made it through the last year and kept the Post in the black. Doug has decided to take a well-deserved break from the Chair of the Operations and Social Committee. Well done Doug!!!!

Additionally, I would like to offer Kudos to John Schomaker who immediately stepped up to become the Operations chair. He has done it before and will do a great job. Thanks John!!

Lastly, I would like to remind everyone about the upcoming Mid-Winter Conference in Des Moines February 10 – 12 2017 at the Airport Holiday Inn. If you want to see how the Legion operates at the Department and District level, here is your opportunity.



MEMBERSHIP IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY



Unit President Tammy's Comments

Since this is the beginning of a new year, I thought I would remind us why we are members of the American Legion Auxiliary by posting our mission statement.

"In the spirit of Service, not Self, the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support the American Legion and to honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families both at home and abroad. For God and Country we advocate for veterans, educate our citizens, mentor youth, and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace and

security."

We are here to honor and support our Veterans and their families. Please continue to support the Auxiliary by paying your dues, recruiting a new member, participating in meetings when you can, and assisting with our projects when possible. Our sphere of influence extends to our community. When you are out and about, be open to any opportunity where you can promote the Auxiliary, our mission and our principles of justice, freedom and democracy.

On January 7th the Unit hosted steak night. I would like to thank everyone

who helped with the dinner and everyone who was able to join us! These events are successful when all of us participate!

Our next Auxiliary meeting will be February 7th at 6:30 pm.

The Mid-Winter conference is coming up on Feb 10th thru Feb 12th. Please attend if you can. This conference will be educational, allows networking, and will have some fun mixed in.

Remember, thank a veteran every chance you get, visit your post often and be kind to each other!

Squadron Commander Roger's Comments

The weather this winter had been full of uncertainty. Ice, rain, and temps that go from below zero wind-chills to temps in the upper 40's. We never know what to expect from one day to the next.

Fortunately, events hosted by the Post are not as erratic. There is a fairly consistent routine that takes place that we have all come to expect. However, there is one new event that will be taking place during the month of February that I want to bring to your attention.

In addition to the monthly Saturday night steak dinner (hosted by the S.A.L. this month) on February

4th, there is an additional S.A.L. Breakfast scheduled for Saturday, February 18th. That's right. The S.A.L. has decided to host 3 breakfasts this year instead of the normal two. As usual, the breakfast will consist of biscuits & gravy, scrambled eggs, coffee, milk, and juice. All you can eat for a free-will donation. Please put it on your calendar now to join us for either or both events.

The funds that are collected from these meals are for good causes. Another plus...Meeting and visiting with other members of this Post is a great way to shake off some of those winter blues.

Of course, February also means that it is time for Mid-Winter Conference. This will be taking place at the Airport Holiday Inn in Des Moines on Feb. 10, 11, and 12. This will be my first opportunity to attend but I've been told that it is well worth it. If you can make it to attend any or all of it, I would encourage you to do so.

As I close up this month's update, please remember to stay safe, enjoy life, and always be quick to offer a helping hand to those who are in need, especially our veterans.

Clubroom News

Happy Valentine's Day everyone!! We have lots of events going on in the clubroom this month to help beat the winter blues. We hope you can stop in and join us. We had a great turnout for the fish fry and burger night in January. Thanks to all that came in and all the volunteers that helped make both events a success.

Big Game Madness: Join us Sunday, February 5 at the ultimate place to watch the Super Bowl. Enjoy the game on our big screen. Please bring a munchie to share. We will have drink specials, pools, trivia games and more.

Wednesday, Feb. 8 is Burger Basket Night-Burgers will be served from 5-7pm. Served with a side of fries and all our favorite toppings for \$5.

Friday, Feb. 17 is Tenderloin Night-Tenderloins will be served from 5:30-7pm. This meal is a great value for an

oversized sandwich and fries for just \$6.

Join us Sunday February 26 for the Daytona 500 and cheer on your favorite driver. We will have drink specials, pools and lots of fun. Please bring a munchie to share and celebrate the start of racing season.

Soup Contest- Do you have a great soup and want to share it? Enter it into our contest. All soups will be entered into the contest for a chance to win a prize and bragging rights for the whole year. We ask that entrants have their soup at the post by 1pm on the 18th. Also bring whatever you think compliments your soup the best (crackers, bread, cheese, etc)

Join us for a night of fun on Friday Feb.24. We will be country dancing from 9pm-1am with lessons starting at 8pm. Dust your boots off and join us!

Boys & Girls State Candidates Needed



The selection of delegates to 2017 Boys and Girls State is beginning. Young men and women of

good character and leadership potential who are currently in the junior class in high school are eligible for selection.

The Ames Post and Squadron join in sponsoring boys to 2017 Boys State and the Unit sponsors girls to Girls State. Both selections are made based on interviews with the candidates.

Nominations can be made by members of the Legion family by calling Dave or Ann Rehbein at 232-9299 to suggest a name by leaving contact information for

your nominee at the post to their attention.

Traditionally the Ames Legion family has sponsored delegates from Ames and Gilbert High Schools but has in the past sponsored students from other schools. If you have a family member or neighbor that you think would make a good candidate please get their names to us.

Boys State will take place June 11-16, 2017 at Camp Dodge, Girls State will be June 18-23, 2017 at Drake University. Sponsorship costs are paid by the Ames Legion Family.



Country Dancing
February 24th
9:00 pm – 1:00 am
 (Lessons start at 8:00 pm)



The Ames Post baseball team is getting organized to begin their season. In order to qualify for District and Department tournament play, the team must have played 35 innings prior to the opening of those tournaments.

At the January Post meeting, \$500 was donated to support the team and the Squadron has allocated \$250 for that purpose. The game schedule will be published as soon as it is known. Make plans to get out and support the team

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

Legion Riders

The Ames Legion Riders Chapter elected their new officers for 2017 at their January meeting.

The Legion Riders have become a valued member of the Ames Legion family. They organize and participate in several projects during the year. If you can help them in their fundraising or any other way, please do so. All of the Legion family congratulates these new officers.

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| President | Bruce Schuller |
| Vice President | John Valline |
| Treasurer | Rich Archer |
| Secretary | Jammie Phillips |
| Membership Chair | Rich Hackett |
| Chaplain | Pat Phillips |
| | Leonard Springer |
| Historian | Bonita Deaton |
| Sgt-at-Arms | Bill Couser |
| Road Captain | (Head) Ken Wood |
| | Steve Van Kerckvoorde, Jim Adams |

Kudo Korner



Well done and thanks to the following their volunteer efforts at the Post: Megan, Michelle, Mellissa and Maria

McEnany, Bill Donovan, Andrea Gronau, Jodi Looft, Sandy & Mike Deacon and Michelle Sime for Burgers with Santa; John Schomaker, John & Lynne Sellmeyer, Phil Harris, Roger & Sandy Lawrence, Mike & Sandy Deacon and Michelle Sime their efforts on another successful Fish Fry; Kathy MacCrea, Ann Rehbein, Bob & Sharon Bellinghausen, Mike & Sandy Deacon, Pat & Jamie Phillips, Andrea Gronau, Debi Barr, Jan Schmidt, Dee Ball, Tammy Hyer, Steve Malmquist, Ken Woodley and Pat Kyle for assisting with the December and January Steak Dinners; Sandy Deacon, Paul Madsen, Michelle McEnany, Bill Donovan and Addie Donovan for successful end of year Tenderloin Basket Night; Mike & Sandy Deacon for coordinating the Country Music Dancing Night, and; John Schomaker, Mike and Sandy Deacon, Addie Donovan, Bill Donovan and Roger Lawrence for the January Burger Night.

AMERICAN LEGION POST NO. 37

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LOOK INSIDE FOR COUPON **FEBRUARY**

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
			1 WINESDAY WEDNESDAY BINGO	2 DOLLAR DOG DAY LEGION BOARD 6:30 REGULAR 7:30	3 FIREBALL FRIDAY MUNCHIES NIGHT	4 STEAK DINNER 5:30—7:00
5 BIG GAME MADNESS BINGO	6 LEGION RIDERS 6:30	7 TATER TOT TUESDAY AUXILIARY REGULAR 6:30	8 WINESDAY WEDNESDAY BURGER NIGHT 5:00-7:00 BINGO	9 DOLLAR DOG DAY	10 FIREBALL FRIDAY MUNCHIES NIGHT	11 MIDWINTER CONFERENCE
12 MIDWINTER CONFERENCE BINGO	13	14 TATER TOT TUESDAY VALENTINES DAY SAL REGULAR 6:30	15 WINESDAY WEDNESDAY BINGO	16 DOLLAR DOG DAY SOCIAL COMMITTEE 6:00	17 FIREBALL FRIDAY TENDERLOIN NIGHT 5:30-7:00	18 BISCUITS & GRAVY BREAKFAST 7-11 ANNUAL SOUP CONTEST
19 BINGO	20 NATIONAL VICE- COMMANDER VISIT 6:00	21 TATER TOT TUESDAY PAST PRESIDENT'S PARLEY 7:00	22 WINESDAY WEDNESDAY BINGO	23 DOLLAR DOG DAY OPERATIONS COMMITTEE 6:00	24 FIREBALL FRIDAY COUNTRY DANCE NIGHT 9PM-1AM	25
26 DAYTONA 500 PARTY BINGO	27	28 TATER TOT TUESDAY 40&8	 Find us on Facebook at American Legion Family of Ames, IA Post 37			