

Membership Work Has Started

Membership work has begun on a new year. Membership cards for the 2020 year have been distributed for the Post while the Unit and Squadron cards are on the way.

2019 was a great year for the Squadron but not so good for the Post and Unit. We need to change that. We simply can't afford any more years of decline in membership.

If you are a faithful reader of this newsletter, you know that the Ames Post is very active but let me remind you of a few things.

Our Honor Guard rendered military services at the funerals for 22 of our comrades last year. Our volunteers saw to it that the flags flew in downtown Ames on Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day and Veterans Day.

We conducted the 5th



Grade Flag essay contest sent two young men to Boys State, awarded 250 Academic letters and sponsored baseball teams in Ames and Gilbert.

The Post hosts the medical loan closet that many citizens of Ames need.

Beyond Ames, The American Legion does many things that make your dues dollar provide services well above that \$1 amount. In January, monthly membership impact reports began being compiled. Those reports can be found at www.legion.org/

[membership/impact](#). Those reports summarize activity at the National level each month.

Maybe most importantly, your dues are used to support the five individuals in the Department Service Office that help veterans with claims to the VA. Right now those five that work for The American Legion handle 50% of the claims that the Des Moines Regional Office deals with.

If our membership rolls continue to decline, one day that number may go from five people helping veterans to four. If that happens, some of our comrades will not get the help they need.

If you have renewed for 2020, thank you. If not, today is the day. Remember you can renew online at www.legion.org/renew. Your American Legion needs you.

Legion Act Passes House

While this issue was in final editing, the LEGION ACT passed the House of Representatives. This legislation would amend the Charter of The American Legion to make everyone who has served in the military since Pearl Harbor eligible for membership.

The legislation now goes to the President for his signature. It is not anticipated that there will be any problem obtaining that signature.

When that happens, the National Constitution and By-Laws are considered amended since they must agree with the Congressional Charter. On that day, everyone that you know that served but was not eligible for membership will become eligible and can be enrolled.

This is the first step in the process of getting benefits authorized for those veterans who have been waiting all this time.

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Post Commander Jennifer's Comments

Hello! For those that don't know me my name is Jennifer Monserud, I am a 23-year member of Post 37 and a lifetime member of Unit 37 here in Ames. I am a Navy veteran and served a total of six years. Some of you may remember me from when I was Unit President from 2006-2008 and I am proud to be the first Past Unit President to be elected as Post Commander.

In the coming year I would like to focus on two areas; our building and growing our membership.

First, there are several projects around the post that need attention; fixing the hole in the concrete floor in the basement from past plumbing repairs, taking down the unused chimney on the roof, and doing some work to the façade out front. If you are willing to donate time or materials to these projects, please contact the post and leave a message with your name and number and we will be in touch!

Second, we need to grow our member-

ship. I recently attended the annual Department convention in Des Moines. What began as a plea for help a few years ago has started to turn desperate. Our children and youth programs are seeing reduced participants, staff member jobs have been cut at our National Headquarters in the recent past, and our department budget is stretched thin. These are all a direct result of declining membership.

According to the US Census five year estimate, approximately 2260 Ames residents are veterans, and over 2000 of them have wartime service. Only 21% are local members though leaving many veterans possibly unaware of our programs and, more importantly, their benefits.

We must all increase our efforts to renew our existing members and recruit new members. Please, tell your friends about us and our work, bring them to the post for a dinner or social event and let the benefits speak for themselves!

For Legion members with financial concerns, we have a membership sponsor program to assist with dues. There are some restrictions, contact Amespost37membership@gmail.com or call the post and leave a message for myself with your name and phone number.

Another of our programs where help is needed is the Honor Guard, our volunteer numbers have declined to the point where it is getting difficult to gather enough members for each funeral service. Each service only takes about an hour and we are happy to provide any training that might be needed. Auxiliary and SAL members are welcome and encouraged to volunteer!! We can work with your work or snowbird schedule, contact Doug MacCrae if interested.

I am looking forward to having a little fun this year with you all, Unit President Sandy, and Squadron Commander Bob, I'll see you all at the post!

Unit President Sandy's Comments

Congratulations to all of the new officers of our Ames Legion Family. Now it's time to hit the ground running. There are so many great programs for us to support. What's your favorite? Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, Children and Youth, Community Service, Education, Girls State, Juniors, National Security? If you have a special interest, please contact me and let me know your ideas.

Last year the American Legion Auxiliary recorded some pretty amazing statis-

tics. 3,958,361 hours and \$9,980,521 spent serving veterans and military. 470,501 hours and \$1,441,229 spent serving military families. 2,658,800 hours and \$11,027,222 spent in support of youth, scholarships and communities. The value of American Legion Auxiliary members volunteer service was over \$1.1 billion. That's Impact.

We invite you to attend our monthly meetings on the first Tuesday at 6:30 pm at the Post Home, 225 Main Street. Come and see what we are all about.

Department Newsletters

For those members of the Legion family that are interested in knowing more about the work done at the state level, both The American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary have electronic newsletters. The Legion's is published twice monthly while the Auxiliary publishes weekly.

You can subscribe to the Legion's newsletter at www.ialegion.org/signup and to the Auxiliary's at iowaala.org

Squadron Commander Bob

Thank You for selecting me to be your Squadron Commander for the next year. My goals are simple:

1. To increase membership and to increase the number of active youth into the program
2. To ensure that the Ten Ideals of the Sons of the American Legion and the Five Star program are brought to the attention of the youth in the Squadron
3. To ensure that our ties to the Family of The American Legion remain strong

With the help of the Officers and Executive Committee that you have selected, we as a Squadron should be able to accomplish these goals. See you at the August meeting.

American Legion Baseball Year-End Events

The 2019 American Legion Baseball season comes to a close this month. The National Regional tournaments begin in early August with Iowa's champion, Dubuque County, playing in Sioux Falls, SD on August 7-11.

The winner of that tournament along with the other seven regional winners will move to Shelby, NC for the World Series on August 15-20. The World Series games will be televised with the August 15 games on ESPN3, August 16-20 on ESPNU and the August 21 championship game on ESPNEWS.

The Major League Baseball Hall of Fame Class of 2019 was inducted on July 21. That class includes four former



Legion Baseball players, Harold Baines, Roy Halladay, Mike Mussina and Lee Smith, bringing the total of Legion players in the Hall of Fame to 81.

The National Baseball page, www.legion.org/baseball has many interesting articles and historical stories and also includes videos from players like Lee Smith about the effect Legion baseball had on them.

Another feature on that page is the selection of our fan-selected American Legion Baseball All-Centennial Team. You can vote on your selections by position for that team. Luckily you can vote for more than one at each position since there are so many great former Legion baseball players.

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. We are planning our annual golf outing so make sure to check in the clubroom and the Facebook page for more details. 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:

Friday, August 16 is Tenderloin Basket Night. Tenderloins will be served from 5-7pm. Come join us for this great Iowa meal! Baskets are just \$6.

Wednesday, August 28 is Burger Basket Night. Burgers will be served from 5-6:30pm. Burger 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-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



THANK YOU Thanks to all who helped out at the post in the last month!! It is very much appreciated. Sandy Deacon, Mike Deacon, Tom Fowler, Bill Donovan, Paul Madson, Scooter, Michelle Sime, Russ Belz, Vicki Belz, and Addison Donovan.

American Legion Commemorative Coins

Remember that American Legion Centennial coin sets and the Veterans Medallion and Silver Dollar Set remain for [sale through the US Mint](#).



These coins were struck by the US Mint to honor our

centennial. There are a limited number of the sets but the 50 cent piece, silver dollar and \$5 gold piece can be bought individually. Don't let them slip away and then regret it. www.ialegion.org can direct you.



Corporal Ralph Bennett Service



The Ames Legion family along with the entire City of Ames and Story County will welcome US Army Corporal Ralph Bennett home from World War II on August 1-3.

Cpl. Bennett was killed on June 13, 1944 while fighting with the 209th Engineer Combat Battalion in Burma. Cpl. Bennett's identification became separated from his remains. He was recently identified through DNA comparisons with family members.

Cpl. Bennett's remain will be escorted from Des Moines on August 1. There

will be a private service for family only on August 2 with a public interment held on August 3 in Ames Municipal Cemetery. Please monitor the news media in Ames and our weekly update for exact times for the service.

Military honors will be performed by the Iowa National Guard but the Legion family should be well represented at his service. Plan on being there early the morning of August 3. Parking will probably be difficult so try to carpool.

Cpl. Bennett's family has already expressed their thanks for our support. But please come out and show your support for them publicly. They have been waiting a long time.

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

Legion Riders



The next Legion Riders meeting will be on August 5 at 6:30. The Ames Legion Riders are also hosting a bike and car show and shine event at the Iowa Veterans

home on August 10, entry is open to all and the proceeds raised will go directly to the Veterans Home.

This month our dinner rides are on August 11 to Pancho's in Madrid and August 25 to Pickles in Kamrar. They leave from the Post parking lot with kickstands up at 4:30. Our breakfast ride on August 17 will leave the Ames Theisen's parking lot at 8:00 am to the Original Pancake House in Ankeny.



Newsletter by E-Mail



We work hard at the Ames Post to make sure your dues money is spent efficiently and that you get the most value for your dollar.

There is one thing that you can do to help us with that task. Trust us with your e-mail address so that we can send you this newsletter for free and save the mailing cost.

We know that some folks simply like the feel of the paper in their hands to read the latest information. But we also know that it costs about \$3 each year to mail you this newsletter. Think what the Post, Unit and Squadron could do with the \$1,425 dollars that we spend mailing to half our members.

Send your email address to the editor at davidrehbein@msn.com. We promise it will remain private and only be used to send you the newsletter and weekly updates. We also pledge that every dollar you help us save will be used to make our Legion family stronger.

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 **MONTH**

<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 DOLLAR DOG DAY	2 FIREBALL FRIDAY MUNCHIES NIGHT	3
4 BINGO	5 LEGION RIDERS 6:30	6 TACO TUESDAY AUXILIARY REGULAR 6:30	7 WINESDAY WEDNESDAY BINGO	8 DOLLAR DOG DAY LEGION BOARD 6:30 REGULAR 7:30	9 FIREBALL FRIDAY MUNCHIES NIGHT	10
11 BINGO	12	13 TACO TUESDAY SAL REGULAR 6:30	14 WINESDAY WEDNESDAY BINGO	15 DOLLAR DOG DAY	16 FIREBALL FRIDAY TENDERLOIN BASKET 5-7	17
18 BINGO	19 VFW POST MEETING 7:00	20 TACO TUESDAY	21 WINESDAY WEDNESDAY BINGO	22 DOLLAR DOG DAY OPERATIONS COMMITTEE 6:00	23 FIREBALL FRIDAY MUNCHIES NIGHT	24
25 BINGO	26	27 TACO TUESDAY 40&8	28 WINESDAY WEDNESDAY BURGER BASKET 5-6:30 BINGO	29 DOLLAR DOG DAY	30 FIREBALL FRIDAY MUNCHIES NIGHT	31