

Ames Legion Family In Action

Legion Family Educates and Rewards

Advocacy for three issues runs deep in the history of The American Legion family. Support for Scouting was one of the original positions taken at the first convention. The American Legion played a large role in the creation of American Education Week in 1921 and passage of the US Flag Code in 1923.

Events in October and November saw that advocacy continue in Ames.



Unit #37 under the leadership of Rachel and Sadie Breyfogle sponsored a flag education/etiquette program on November 16 at the Ames Public Library. Approximately 30 Girl and Boy Scouts attended to learn more about their nation's

flag and the proper ways to display, handle and dispose of it.

Three sessions were held with the attendees rotating between them. Those sessions were color guard, a



flag craft table and flag folding/display.

The color guard session was especially important since they post and retrieve the colors at many of their meetings. Knowing how to do that properly builds a feeling of confidence.

An earlier event on October 28 saw the Legion family demonstrating our continued emphasis on education.



The American Legion family jointly with the Ames School District sponsored the 33rd annual Academic Awards convocation.



Taylor Schlagel (shown center above), one of approximately 250 Ames High juniors and seniors to be awarded their Academic letter stands with Post Commander Jennifer Monserud and Unit Secretary Ann Rehein after the convocation.

The cafeteria at Ames High was standing room only for this event. Attendance was estimated at approximately 500. Information on Boys and Girls State was also given to the juniors that day.

We estimate that over 8,000 Academic letters have been awarded in that 33 years.

Santa To Visit Legion



Stop by the Legion on Friday, December 13th to see Santa.

Santa and Mrs. Claus will be at the Legion from 5- 7pm. December 13th is also \$5 Burger Basket Night.

This is a great opportunity to bring the entire family. Santa will have special treats for the children and of course a photo too. This is fun for all ages, please join us!

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Post Commander Jennifer's Comments

Hello!

Early in the new year we will be hosting a Family Play Day, bring your kids and grandkids for an afternoon of games and maybe even a movie. No alcohol will be served during that time, but soda and food will be available from the bar. We hope to give families a place to burn off the cabin fever and enjoy some time together, this event will be open to the community so bring your friends and your favorite game!

We also hope to revive a past idea of local community service, raking yards, cutting up fallen branches, or making minor home repairs for veterans that need assistance. We hope to get this off the ground soon, if you know of a veteran that needs their walk shoveled or other help or would like to be involved please give us a call!

I recently read an article titled "Maybe marriage isn't for you." The article talks

about how we don't marry because that person will make *us* happy, we marry because *we want* to make that person happy. One sentence reads, "Marriage isn't for you. It's not about you. Marriage is about the person you married."

When I finished reading the article it struck me that this is the same way many of us feel about our military service and continued service through the American Legion. It isn't about us or what we want, it is about what we can provide for others.

Many of you pay your dues faithfully every year and never walk into the post. I want to thank you for that.

You may have read that a portion of your dues fund the American Legion service office in Des Moines. Those five employees are not paid by the VA or the federal government. They are American Legion Department of Iowa employees. The entire cost of running

that office comes from Iowa American Legion dues.

Your dues are helping veterans to file claims with the VA for compensation and appeal those decisions when they aren't right. They help to keep our representatives certified and educated on current presumptive diseases, and help surviving spouses file for a survivor's pension, among many other things.

Maybe your membership isn't for you. Maybe it's for the homeless veteran seeking assistance, or the veteran dealing with Agent Orange diseases.

By the time you read this the holiday season will be in full swing, between the parties and family gatherings, please take time to donate to a good cause or buy a veteran coffee, or maybe even pay their dues.

Have a great December and Happy Holidays, I'll see you all at the post!

Unit President Sandy's Comments

THANK YOU to all who attended the many activities in November. If you were unable to attend, we missed you. The **Speakeasy 100th Birthday Celebration** was a blast. Thanks to Jammie Phillips, Rachel Breyfogle and Ann Rehbein for planning a great evening, and to Alyssa June Portraits for taking wonderful pictures. If you weren't there, you can see the pictures on Alyssa's Facebook page.

The **Flag Etiquette 101 program** sponsored by our Juniors and the Girl Scouts was awesome. We had over 30 kids and several parents in attendance. The kids rotated between 3 learning stations: Color Guard, Flag Display and Folding and Flag Craft. Then there was a Q&A session with 4 members of our Post at the end. The kids asked some great questions and were very engaged. Thanks to Rachel and Sadie Breyfogle for taking the lead on this

event.

Thanks to our members, we met and exceeded our goal of **100 volunteer hours** for Veterans and Community in October. We continue to work on our "**Thank A Veteran**" cards which will be delivered to Veterans in nursing homes and assisted living facilities after the first of the year,

The Holidays are fast approaching and during December we will be busy. **Cookie Fair and Sons Biscuits and Gravy Breakfast** will be held on December 14th from 7:00 till 11:00 am at the Post Home. Our calling committee is busy calling Auxiliary members to bake. If you don't get a call, we probably don't have your correct phone number, but you can bake anyway.

December also brings **Shop With A Cop, Shop With A Firefighter and Holiday for Heroes**. Our Holiday for

Heroes program involves adopting several needy veteran's families to make their Christmas a wonderful time. We join with the Legion and the Sons to purchase presents and gift cards for the veteran families.

As you celebrate Christmas with family and friends, please keep our military families in your thoughts and prayers. Someone important will be missing from their celebration because they are protecting our freedom around the world.

Lastly, if you haven't paid your dues yet, please do so before December 31st. We are closer to goal than we have been for many, many years. Sign up your eligible friends and relatives in our wonderful organization. The cost is small (\$30 for Senior members and \$5.00 for Juniors under 18) but the benefit is huge to our Veterans and our Community.

Squadron Commander Bob's Comments

My apologies, again, for missing an input to the bulletin last month.

I would like to thank all those who helped at the October steak dinner: Steve Malmquist, Steve and Sue Jones, Tom Hadaway, Roger Elliott, Keven Brace, Cort Pahl, and Randy Freel.

I hope that everyone has a Happy Thanksgiving and that everyone will have a glorious Christmas. This is the time of year that all of us should be looking at how we can help everyone celebrate their seasons and remember

what the season truly means to each of us.

Don't forget that the Sons will be having their annual Biscuits and Gravy Breakfast on December 14th and I hope to see everyone there.

Clubroom News

Season's Greetings!! We hope that everyone enjoyed a safe and happy Thanksgiving. Of course, the clubroom will be filled with all kinds of wonderful and fun activities for the holiday season. We hope that everyone will have an opportunity to stop by the post and participate in the festivities. We also encourage everyone to join us for the Iowa State basketball games; we have an enormous TV for your viewing enjoyment, as well as, great drink specials and seasonal beers.

Weekly drawing bonus night!! The end of the year bonus drawings will be held Tuesday 17th. Six drawings will be held every half hour beginning at 6:00pm. Members that have signed in a minimum of fifty percent of the year are qualified for the drawings and must be present to win.

Stop in and see us, we have 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!!

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 new Carletto wine for \$12.

Thirsty Thursday- Featuring \$1 Hot Dogs and \$2 Domestic Bottles of Beer

Friday- munchie night!! After a hard week, it's great to sit back with your friends and have a snack and beverage.

Check out the activities in December:

Friday, December 13th is \$5 Burger Nite and a visit from a special guest. Burgers will be served from 5:00-7pm. This is a fabulous opportunity to bring down the whole family for a great meal at a great price and to get your picture taken with Santa.

Saturday 14th SAL Breakfast & Auxiliary Cookie sale 7-11

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

Friday Dec. 20- Potato Bar and Ugly Christmas Sweater party-The potato bar was a success last month so we are trying it again. Enjoy a baked potato and fill it full of all your favorite toppings for just \$5. Get in the Christmas spirit and sport your favorite ugly Christmas sweater.

December 24th the Clubroom will be open from 12-6pm. If you have never joined us on Christmas Eve, please do. We have so much fun and cheer. Please bring a munchie to share. Please note that we will be closed on Christmas day.

The clubroom will be having our weekly meat raffle again this season. Stop by for a chance to win one of four fabulous weekly prizes.

Legion Rider News

The offseason has us cleaning up loose ends and recapping the last riding season. With escort rides, dinner rides, and a breakfast ride or two, we've all logged miles to be remembered. As the snow is starting to fly, and even though they look clear, the roads will have a dangerous covering of sand and salt. If you do get in a ride, be very aware of this hidden danger and that motorists aren't expecting to see a motorcycle on the road.

Oh well, winter happens every year. Now we wait for spring.

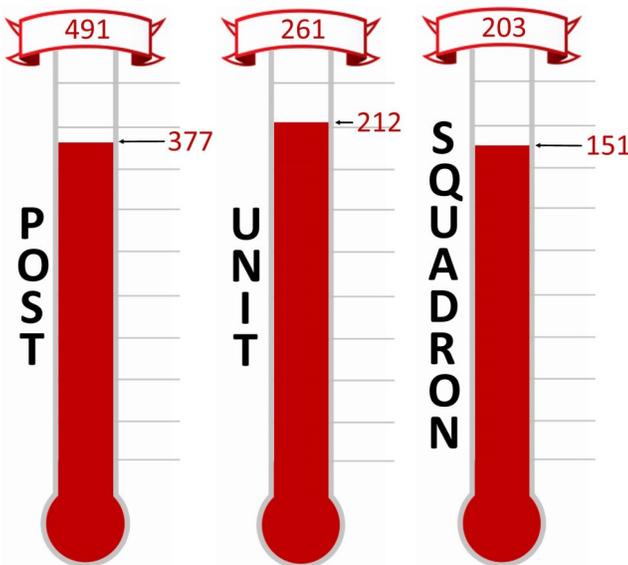
We've welcomed several new members to the Riders this year and are excited to increase our membership even further. We are open to all motorcycle riders, either single or couples, in our Legion family and if you aren't sure if you qualify, reach out to us!

The Legion Riders will hold their elections at the December 2nd meeting and nominations will be open until then. We

currently have a full slate of officers running and of course, anyone interested in running for an office is welcome to attend. Holding an office isn't required, wanting to ride and enjoy the company of others is!

January 1 is the renewal date for the 2020 Legion Rider dues. We will need to see your valid motorcycle license and a valid insurance card at dues renewal.

Be safe, ride safe, and have a wonderful holiday season!



Membership Makes a Great Gift

You can see the progress in the membership work to the left. The Unit has slipped into the lead with at over 80% of their goal with the Post and Squadron are each in the mid-70s. That is quite a turn-round from last year when the Squadron was the only one to reach their goal and the Unit was farthest from goal.

Everyone that receives this issue paid dues at one time to one of the Legion family members. We hope you found something in our organizations that made that dues payment worthwhile. If not, just check the first page of this issue. Your dues made it possible for us to help educate 30 of the young people in Ames and to reward 250 high school students for their hard work. That of itself should provide the value you seek in those dues.

This is a great time to think about giving the gift of membership. Military service runs in families. Many of you have a family member serving or that has served. Why not give the gift of membership to them during this holiday season?

If you want to give the gift of membership, send an email to Amespost37membership@gmail.com and tell us Post, Unit or Squadron and we will get the necessary materials to you.

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 **DECEMBER**

<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 & SOUP AUXILIARY REGULAR 6:30	4 WINESDAY WEDNESDAY BINGO	5 DOLLAR DOG DAY	6 FIREBALL FRIDAY MUNCHIES NIGHT	7 STEAK DINNER 5:00—7:00
8 BINGO	9	10 TOASTED CHEESE & SOUP SAL REGULAR 6:30	11 WINESDAY WEDNESDAY BINGO	12 DOLLAR DOG DAY LEGION BOARD 6:30 REGULAR 7:30	13 FIREBALL FRIDAY BURGER NIGHT WITH SANTA	14 BISCUITS & GRAVY BREAKFAST & COOKIE FAIR
15 BINGO	16 VFW POST MEETING 7:00	17 TOASTED CHEESE & SOUP PAST PRESIDENT'S PARLEY	18 WINESDAY WEDNESDAY BINGO	19 DOLLAR DOG DAY SOCIAL COMMITTEE 6:30	20 FIREBALL FRIDAY POTATO BAR UGLY XMAS SWEATER PARTY	21
22 BINGO	23	24 CLUBROOM OPEN 12-6	25 CHRISTMAS DAY CLUBROOM CLOSED	26 DOLLAR DOG DAY	27 FIREBALL FRIDAY MUNCHIES NIGHT	28
29 BINGO	30	31 TOASTED CHEESE & SOUP	 Find us on Facebook at American Legion Family of Ames, IA Post 37			