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www.ialegion.org
www.ialegion.org/ala
www.ialegion.org/riders

www.legion.org
www.alaforveterans.org
www.sal.legion.org

Ames Legion Family In Action

THANK YOU FOR PATIENCE AND UNDERSTANDING

Since last spring we have all seen many changes in the way that we live our lives. Your American Legion clubroom and staff have been forced to adapt to changing requirements dealing with COVID-19. Our members and guests have at times come to the clubroom to find that seating has changed, that for some time there was a requirement to purchase food in order to have their favorite beverage and even for a while that the clubroom was closed.



Through it all, our Legion family members have adapted to the changes and have done so with a smile and willingness to make those changes work. Thanks to you we have been able to keep the clubroom open and continue to provide a warm welcoming place for our members to gather even if they had to be socially distanced.

We want to thank our members for their patience and understanding. Many posts have not been able to continue to provide a place for their members to meet. We have because our members are special. That is what makes our Post a special place, not the building or the furnishings and décor but the people. Thank you for being so willing to adapt and help us keep our clubroom a great part of our Legion family.

Jennifer Monserud
 Post Commander

Jodi Looft
 Clubroom Manager

Legion Family Youth Programs Starting

The season for our Youth Programs is here. It will kick off with our Academic



Awards ceremony in partnership with Ames High on December 17. With COVID running rampant, the ceremony will be virtual this year but we will make sure that every junior and senior at Ames High that qualifies will receive their Academic letter. The program is currently scheduled for 9:30AM. Please watch the Facebook page or the weekly update for more information.



Stan Elliott and Ann Rehbein have

begun the search for candidates for Boys and Girls State for 2021. Candidates must be in their junior year in high school and possess qualities of leadership, scholastic achievement

and good citizenship. Contact Stan at sdejae@gmail.com for Boys State or Ann at amrehbein@msn.com for Girls State.

Information has been sent for the Fifth Grade Flag Essay program. This program is open to Fifth grade students and requires them to write a maximum 300 word essay on what the US Flag means to them. Contact Randy Freel through the Post if you might know someone interested.



If you took yard waste to the Ames free site on November 21 or 28, you saw members of the Ames and Gilbert High School baseball teams earning money to help with the expenses of an American Legion Baseball team from each school. We will be sponsoring both teams this spring.

Alongside them, you also saw members of the JSSP team earning mon-



ey to help support their team. They practice on Sunday afternoons.

Contact Cort Pahl through the Squadron for information about the club.

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Post Commander Jennifer's Comments

Hello!

What a year its been! 2020 is one for the books! I want to start by thanking our manager Jodi for everything she has done for our American Legion this year. It has been a trying year and she has kept us afloat with her Wednesday night dinners and kept us in line by making sure we are complying with all the changing closures and proclamations from the Governor. Jodi you are our savior and there are not enough thanks to show our appreciation! We just could NOT have survived without you!

Because of the increasing COVID numbers in November we have decided to postpone our BINGO discussion until after the first of the year. Hopefully soon we can get the game up and running!

Over Veterans Day all our WWII and Korea veterans that had not yet paid

their dues had their membership sponsored by generous members and community members. One community member purchased a LIFETIME membership for a Korea veteran, they also paid the annual dues of four additional veterans! Gifts like this really communicate to our veterans how important their service is to us. If you would like to give the gift of membership please email amespost37membershp@gmail.com!

Our membership dinner in November was a lot of fun and highly successful! A total of 66 American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, and Sons of the American Legion members took advantage of the free meal for paid members. Another approximately 33 guests and community members purchased dinner! All of that money went to the Operations account to assist in paying our monthly bills. Thank you to those members that participated!

Our annual Academic Awards program will still be held this year, but we are not sure what form it will take yet as many schools have moved to online learning at this time. The program is tentatively scheduled for December and I look forward to bringing you highlights in next months newsletter. I'll also post information and details on our Facebook page. We are working to get a similar program off the ground in Gilbert!

You may receive a call from a post officer in the coming weeks, we are not asking for money or your time, we just want to check in and see how you are! It is important that we all take some time to check in with our veterans, who better to check in with veterans than another veteran! If you get a voicemail take the time to return the call, our post officers will enjoy the chat.

I hope you are all well and continue to be well! Take care of yourselves!

Unit President Sandy's Comments

Tis the Season to be Jolly.



Cookie Sale. Due to the pandemic, we will not be hosting our annual Cookie Fair this year. But we do want to offer you an alternative. Don't want to bake? We can help with that. Your Ames Unit will be selling large decorated sugar cookies just in time for the Holidays for only \$10.00 per dozen. Please place your order by Wednesday, December 9th. You may pick up your cookies on Wednesday, December 16th from 5:00 until 6:30 pm.

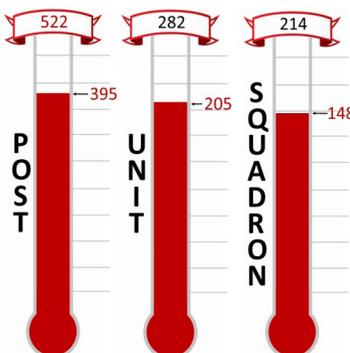
Order by email at amesunit37@gmail.com or call or text 515-450-1027. We will need your name, phone number and how many dozen cookies you want to order.

Membership. We are getting closer. As of this writing we have 201 memberships turned in for 2021. We only need 81 to make our goal. If you haven't paid your dues yet, please do so today. If you have a friend or family member who is eligible, why not give them a gift of paid membership for Christmas? It's only \$30 for Senior members or \$5 for Junior members (under 18).

Buddy Checks. The American Legion has been doing "Buddy Checks" for their members for some time now. As Auxiliary members, we need to reach out to our members who we haven't seen for a while, just to make sure they are okay. Many of our members are stuck in their homes with no outside contact. A simple call could make their day. If each of you would call or text someone, just to check up on them, we would make a big impact.

Happy Holidays to all. May you and your family stay healthy and safe.

Membership Continues to Climb



The mercury continues to climb in the Ames Legion family membership thermometers. When this was written the Post was leading, having reached over 75% of their goal although all three were doing well, following up on a banner year when all three groups exceeded their goal.

Just over 30 days from now, the 2021 membership year will officially begin. Nothing to worry about if you have re-

newed but if you haven't now would be a great time. Find that renewal notice and get those dues current. Legion dues are \$45. Auxiliary dues are \$30 for seniors and \$5 for juniors. SAL dues are \$45 for members over 21 and \$15 for dual members (Legion and SAL).

VA to Resume Copayment Collection

In April 2020, the VA suspended collection on debts due to COVID-19. That included copayments for medical services and prescriptions. That suspension is ending on January 1, 2021.

The VA Debt Management Center is mailing letters to all veterans with benefit debts including copayment debt to make them aware of the actions to be taken after January 1.

The letter will offer you methods to make early payment and avoid collection. If you believe that you will have trouble making payments, please contact our Department Service Office at 800-944-2030. Do not wait until January 1 to take action.

For those with debt incurred before April 3, 2020, collection on that debt was suspended. That suspension will end January 1 and the VA will resume withholding from your VA benefits to repay the debt. If you believe that will cause a hardship to you, contact our Service Office at the above number. They can explain options to you.

Please do not try to deal with these matters alone directly with the VA. Our claims reps are there to help. Use them!

Clubroom News

Season's Greetings!! We hope that everyone enjoyed a safe and Happy Thanksgiving. Things around here seem to be changing on almost a weekly basis on how we are able to conduct business in the clubroom. We are doing everything to make your experience in the clubroom as safe as we can and will continue to do everything that is required by the state. We are asking that in return that if you are having any symptoms of Covid, have come in contact or are awaiting your test results that you PLEASE, PLEASE stay home until it's safe for you to return. We want to keep everyone safe and be able to stay open.

Our clubroom hours will remain the same but if Iowa State has an earlier game we will open early for you to come watch with us. We will continue to do our curbside meals on Wednesday nights. As things get colder and the weather gets worse we will also be offering delivery to our members in Ames that are unable to come get yourselves. Just give us a call by Tuesday and we will add you to the list.

Weekly drawing bonus night!! The end of the year bonus drawings will be held Tuesday 15th. Six drawings will be held every half hour beginning at 5:30pm. Members that have signed in a minimum of fifty percent of the year are qualified for the drawings and must be present to win.

Monday- Weekly Drawing- Once a week, drop your dollar into the wishing well and enter for a chance to win up to

\$500.

Curbside Meals: Call Clubroom, 232-9870, anytime after 2pm for pickup between 5-6:30pm

Wed. Dec 2-Steak Night

Wed. Dec 9-Burger Night

Wed. Dec 16-Chicken Enchiladas, Walking Taco or Southwest Chicken Salad

Wed. Dec 23-Ham Dinner

Wed. Dec 30-Lasagna

Check our Weekly Update and our Facebook page for additional items and more info.

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 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.



Kudos to all that help keep things running in the Clubroom and help make the Curbside Meals happen. Russ and Vicki Belz, Julie Rinard, Mike and Sandy Deacon, Tom Fowler, Bill Donovan, Ken Woodley, Colten Christiansen, and Randy Freel.

Santa Claus is Coming to the Legion



Drive through the back of the Legion on Wednesday, December 9th to see Santa. Santa and Mrs. Claus will be outside behind the Post from 5- 6:30pm for you and the kids to wave at, drop your letter to or just say hi from your vehicle. This also our Curbside Burger Night so call and order dinner to pick up as well! This along with most things this past year will look a little different but we are excited for the opportunity to offer this yearly event albeit with a 2020 twist.

Terrilyn Products Available All Year



As we look back on the last year, we are so grateful for the support of our

members and community. One of those support opportunities was the annual nut sale sponsored by Unit 37. Thank you for your generosity in this endeavor. If you find you need more of these delicious chocolate and nuts, you can order anytime with our online shop. There are some great new holiday gift tins available.

CLUBROOM COUPON

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

Legion Riders

Happy Thanksgiving!

We've been given some great weekday weather for riding in the last couple of weeks. Hopefully, you've taken advantage of these days to enjoy all the fun that fall has to offer. Who doesn't enjoy things like raking leaves, cleaning gutters, putting patio furniture in storage? I'll tell ya, this guy, that's who. To be fair, I tried to ride but the cooler weather brought a common phenomena, stranded with a dead battery. Batteries are fickle, just enough juice to get you going, but sometimes not enough juice to get you back home. It's all my fault, I played the "will it make it until spring" game and lost. Anyway, everything is back in running form now.

Speaking of running, at our last meeting it was moved and seconded that the existing officers should stay on for 2021. Nominations will remain open until our next meeting, so if you'd like to put forth a nomination, let one of the current board know and we will hold the vote at our December 7th meeting. We'll also begin discussing what our goals are for the 2021 riding season. This year brought on a lot of postponed and canceled plans.

One event that is new and will not be canceled is coming up quickly. Feel free to join your American Legion Riders on December 19th at 11AM in the Ames Municipal Cemetery as we will place 7 wreaths in honor of all the branches of the military, our POW/MIA's, and our fine country for the holiday season. The wreaths are being provided by Wreaths Across America, and your own Legion Riders have taken on the future task of placing a wreath on every service member's grave in each of the three Ames cemeteries. As they say, more details to follow, but for now, we'd love to have everyone there this year as we begin this pledge to honor those that served.

As always, ride often, and ride safe!

Cliff B.

You can find them at [AmeslowaUnit37.terrilynn.com](https://www.ameslowaunit37.terrilynn.com). Each order ships for a flat rate of only \$5 per address (for any size order, anywhere in the U.S.).

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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>	
 Find us on Facebook at American Legion Family of Ames, IA Post 37	Facebook at American Legion Family of Ames, IA Post 37	1 TOASTED CHEESE & SOUP AUXILIARY REGULAR 6:30	2 WINESDAY WEDNESDAY CURBSIDE MEAL STEAK NIGHT	3 DOLLAR DOG DAY OPERATIONS COMMITTEE 6:00	4 FIREBALL FRIDAY	5	
		6	7 LEGION RIDERS 6:30	8 TOASTED CHEESE & SOUP SAL REGULAR 6:30	9 WINESDAY WEDNESDAY CURBSIDE MEAL BURGER NIGHT SANTA CLAUS	10 DOLLAR DOG DAY LEGION REGULAR 7:00	11 FIREBALL FRIDAY
	13	14	15 TOASTED CHEESE & SOUP PAST PRESIDENT'S PARLEY 7:00	16 WINESDAY WEDNESDAY CURBSIDE MEAL TEX-MEX NIGHT	17 DOLLAR DOG DAY SOCIAL COMMITTEE 6:30	18 FIREBALL FRIDAY	19 WREATHS AT AMES MUNICIPAL 11:00
	20	21 VFW POST MEETING 7:00	22 TOASTED CHEESE & SOUP 40&8	23 WINESDAY WEDNESDAY CURBSIDE MEAL HAM DINNER	24 DOLLAR DOG DAY CHRISTMAS EVE CLUBROOM CLOSING @ 6	25 CHRISTMAS DAY CLUBROOM CLOSED	26
	27	28	29 TOASTED CHEESE & SOUP	30 WINESDAY WEDNESDAY CURBSIDE MEAL LASAGNA	31 DOLLAR DOG DAY		