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**Unit President: Sandy Deacon**  
**Squadron Commander: Bob Bellinghausen**  
**Chapter President: Cliff Barker**

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

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

# Ames Legion Family In Action

## Annual Report To Our Members

Over and over we have told you that the Ames Legion Family is one of the most active in the state. We know you believe us but it is time to prove that with an annual report of our activities and events. Each of our organization provides that kind of report to the state and national organizations but until now we have not given that kind of report to you, our membership in the Ames Legion family. This is that report.

We have broken our activities into four areas, Patriotic Activities, Youth and Community Service, Veterans Service and Social Activities. As you look through this list, remember that everything on that list is only possible because you are a member of the Ames Legion family. Most of this wouldn't happen without you keeping that membership current.

Where you see more than one Emblem, we have worked on those events as a Family. Just like your family, doing things together gives the best result.



### Patriotic Activities

- Performed Military Services for Nineteen Veterans and Firing Squad for Memorial Day
- Raised and Retired Flags in Downtown Area for Memorial Day, Independence Day, Flag Day and Veterans Day
- Provided Color Guard for Memorial Day ceremony and Independence Day parades
- Sponsored Float in Independence Day parade
- Hosted Luncheon/Open House at Post following Memorial Day and Veterans Day Programs
- Distribute poppies

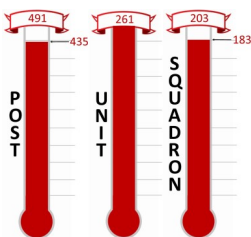
### Youth and Community Service

- Sponsored Two Delegates to Each of Boys and Girls State from Ames and Gilbert High Schools
- Presented 250 Academic Awards to Juniors and Seniors at Ames High School
- Donations— Ames Boys & Girls Club, Beloit Lutheran Services, Youth and Shelter Services, Nation of Patriots, Gold Star Mothers, Shoes that Fit, Shop with a Cop, Shop with a Firefighter, MICA food bank, Auxiliary Emergency Fund and Bombshell Patriots.
- Blood Drive
- Family Play Day

### Veterans Service

- Made and Awarded Quilts of Valor
  - Volunteers and Security for Homeless Veterans Stand Down
  - Donations—Holiday for Hero's (local family in need), National Emergency Fund, Child Welfare Foundation, Legacy Fund, Operation Comfort Warrior, Iowa Veterans Home, Puppy Jake, Soldier's Wish, Wreaths across America, Iowa All Academy Ball, "In My Boots"-Veteran Suicide Prevention, USO, Women's Health Clinic - DSM VA and Headquarters Parking Lot
  - Donation to Iowa American Legion Foundation
- (continued on page 3)

## Unit is First to Reach Goal



Congratulations to Ames Unit #37!!! They are the first to reach their membership goal this year. Each member of the Unit and especially those who did the work on membership this year deserve our congratulations and thanks.

A portion of each Unit member's dues helps with volunteer programs at the VA Medical Centers. The Auxiliary's leading role in the Creative Arts Festivals each year is made possible through membership dues. Girls State is only possible because members pay their dues. Beyond the money, members voices are voices of advocacy. Legislation requires advocates. Your membership means we have one more advocate. More members mean more voices. Thanks to the Unit for leading the way.

### Inside this issue:

Post Commander	2
Unit President	2
Squadron Commander	2
Boys & Girls State	2
Clubroom News	3
Soup Contest	3
Calendar	4

## Post Commander Jennifer's Comments

January has proven to be a cold and difficult start to winter! On to February and then Spring is around the corner! First things first, our Auxiliary unit is goal!! Congratulations to all of you, WELL DONE!!

On February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1943 an enemy torpedo struck and sank the Army transport Dorchester. 902 men were aboard. As the Dorchester sank, four Army chaplains calmed the soldiers, helped the wounded, and guided them to safety. They distributed life jackets, even removing their own and giving them away. Survivors in rafts reported seeing the four chaplains, arms linked and bracing against the slanting deck, singing hymns and praying as the ship went down. Please take a moment to remember this selfless act and find a way to do something kind for someone else on February 3<sup>rd</sup>.

At the January meeting we voted to move the February meeting to February 6<sup>th</sup>. Many of our officers attend the an-

nual Mid-Winter conference in Des Moines and with meetings starting on Thursday for some (our normal meeting day), we decided to move the meetings. The executive committee will still meet at 6:30, with the general meeting following at 7:30. Please mark your calendars for this change and join us if you are able!

Speaking of Mid-Winter Conference, it will be held at the Airport Holiday Inn in Des Moines, from February 14-16. There are several educational workshops planned in addition to the annual programs fair, joint sessions, a blood drive, American Legion Riders meeting, and a band for entertainment Saturday evening! Come down for the weekend or just spend the day! Either way you'll be glad you did!

In mid-January Maj. Gen. Benjamin Corell gave the Condition of the Guard speech to Iowa lawmakers. In that speech he stated that approximately 30% of the 9000 Iowa National Guard

members would be deploying over the next year. Very likely some of those members live in our communities. Please let them know that The American Legion is here to assist those Guard members, their spouses, and their families. If you know a Guard member, bring them to post for Burger night or another function, let them see what we are all about before they deploy.

Some of those Guard members may need help around the house, if you are willing to do small repair jobs, mow lawns, or have another skill you can lend please let me know at [Jennifer.monserud@gmail.com](mailto:Jennifer.monserud@gmail.com). I will build a listing of those willing to help so we know who to call on when help is needed! Remember some of those who remain at home are single fathers who may need help. By the way, many of those Guard members are eligible to join, so ask them!

Have a great February, I'll see you all at

## Unit President Sandy's Comments



**WE HIT OUR MEMBERSHIP TARGET!!!** Thanks to all who paid their 2020 dues. But we still have over 30 members who paid for 2019 but have

not paid 2020. We need you. We need you to help us continue our mission to assist veterans, their families, our community, our children and youth. Each member is important. If you have not paid, please consider doing so today.

Mid-Winter Conference will be held at the Des Moines Airport Holiday Inn on

February 14-16. There are so many things going on during the weekend that I'm sure something will be of interest to you.

Friday is Dudes and Divas Vendor Fair and Joint Session with The American Legion and Sons of The American Legion. Saturday morning there is a Program Fair with information about all of our Programs. Then general session and breakout sessions with reports and additional information.

Saturday night is the Girls State Auction which is a major fundraiser for one of our most important programs. Sunday morning is the Department Oratorical

Contest Finals and another Joint Session.

Come down for a few hours, a day or all weekend. You won't be sorry. The full program can be found on the Legion's website: [www.ialegion.org](http://www.ialegion.org)

Do you volunteer? Let us know your favorite charity or project. Maybe we can help you. Our members do so much that does not get reported. We want to know what's important to you. Why not come to a meeting and talk about your project. We meet the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm at 225 Main St. You are always welcome.

## Squadron Commander Bob's Comments

First, my thanks to all who helped the Sons with the Steak Dinner on the 1<sup>st</sup> of February.

At the last meeting of the S.A.L. the first vote was taken to increase the dues of Dual members and Junior members to \$15.00 per year. Finalizing that decision will require another vote at the February meeting. If you wish to know more about the decision and to cast your vote on this dues change, please show up at the next S.A.L. meeting at 6:30 pm on February 11<sup>th</sup>.

The Ten Ideals of the Sons of the American Legion are: Patriotism; Health; Training; Knowledge; Honor; Faith; Helpfulness; Courtesy; Rever-

ence; and Comradeship. As this is the beginning of a new year it is the time to think of these ideals and of how one is following them. No one of these ideals is more important or less important than any of the others. They are interrelated and interactive.

We are not yet at 100% in membership. The Sons need you to renew (if you haven't done so) and to actively recruit new eligible members. Since the passage of the LEGION act, sons and grandsons of all servicemembers that served in the military of the United States since December 7, 1941 are eligible for membership. Have a great month and see you at the next meeting.

## Boys & Girls State

Selection time for delegates to 2020 Boys and Girls State is here. Boys and Girls from the current Junior class in high school can be nominated and will be interviewed for possible selection.

Boys State is June 21-26 at Camp Dodge. Girls State is June 14-19 at Drake University.

The Post, Unit and Squadron pay the tuition for each delegate. More information is available at [ialegion.org/boysstate/](http://ialegion.org/boysstate/) and [iowa-girlsstate.org](http://iowa-girlsstate.org).

Nominations for Boys State should go to [davidrehbein@msn.com](mailto:davidrehbein@msn.com) and for Girls State to [amrrehbein@msn.com](mailto:amrrehbein@msn.com)

## Clubroom News

Happy Valentine's to all!! We are officially through the busy holidays so take a break because there are plenty of fun activities here in the Clubroom. The clubroom is a great place to watch your favorite sporting events. We will be having a Super Bowl Party and a Daytona Party. Watch our facebook page for more info on those events.

### Super Bowl Madness



Join us Sunday, February 2 for the ultimate place to watch the Super Bowl. Enjoy the big game on our jumbo 110" TV. Please

bring a munchie to share. Come watch the game with us!

**Wednesday, February 12-Burger Basket Night 5-6:30pm.** Join us for a burger and fries with all your favorite toppings for just \$5.



**Sunday, February 16-Daytona 500 party.** Join us NASCAR's biggest race. Bring a munchie to

share and get in on the fun. We will have lots of prizes and raffle items.

### Friday, February 28 is Potato Bar .



Dinner will be served from 5:00-7pm. Stop in for a giant potato and fill it with all of your favorite toppings for just \$5.

Be sure to stop into the clubroom to check out the happenings. It is full of great information including: birthdays, appetizer and drink specials, events at the post and more.

### THANK YOU



Thanks again to all who make everything possible for clubroom events. Your help is very much appreciated.

John and Lynn Sellmeyer, Chris Duncan, Sandy and Mike Deacon, John Schomaker, Tom Fowler, Ken Woodley, Bill Donovan, Steve Jones, Megan McEnany, Rodger VanVoorhis.

### CLUBROOM COUPON

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

### Soup Contest



Do you make an awesome soup? Enter it into our contest. We are asking that our members help with this fundraiser. All

soups will be entered into the contest for a chance to win one of three prizes. All winners will receive a prize plus bragging rights for the whole year. We ask that entrants have their soup at the post by 5:45pm on the 21st, and also ask that you bring whatever compliments your soup the best (i.e. crackers, cheese, bread). Everyone is welcome to enter!! Free will donation will entitle all members to enjoy all the many soups provided by contestants. All proceeds go to the Building Repairs Fund.

## Annual Report (Continued)

### Social Activities

Hosted Golf Outing for Legion Family Members

Hosted 30 dinner & entertainment events throughout year – Steak/Shrimp/Ham, Tenderloin Basket, Burger Basket, Fish Fry, Sunday Brunch, Country Dance Night



### Patriotic Activities

Provided Speakers for veteran's commemorations as Requested

### Youth and Community Service

Sponsored Fifth Grade Flag Essay Contest-What the Flag Means to Me-19 entrants

Sponsored American Legion Baseball Teams from Ames and Gilbert High Schools

Presented Awards to ISU Army, Navy and Air Force ROTC Unit Outstanding Cadets

Hosted and Maintained Medical Equipment Loan Closet at No Cost to Users

Presented Eagle Scout Awards as Requested

Sponsored Iowa Law Officer of Year



### Patriotic Activities

Plant flowers at Veterans memorial

### Youth and Community Service

Volunteer at "Food at First"  
Downtown Trick or Treat  
Kids activities at Farmer's market

### Veterans Service

National Veterans Creative Arts Festival  
Making plastic mats for homeless veterans  
Decorations for residents of Iowa Veterans Home

### Social Activities

Junior Activities – collecting items for Iowa veterans Home, collaborating with Girls Scouts to procure flag disposal box, collecting pop tabs for Ronald McDonald houses, flag etiquette program at Ames Public Library



### Patriotic Activities

Ames Cemetery flags – 1500 Purchased and placed for Memorial Day

### Youth and Community Service

Scholarships - \$2,000 merit award

### Social Activities

Two Biscuit and Gravy breakfasts per year



### Veterans Service

Iowa Veterans Home-Show and Shine Event, \$257 donation

Escort Riders for Cpl. Ralph Bennett service and In My Boots 5k Run.

### Community Service

Donations-\$1400 to various organizations  
Escort Riders for National ALA President Nicole Clapp homecoming, led Memorial Day and July 4 parades


Copies of this annual report will be available at the post or by contacting the editor at davidrehbein@msn.com.

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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>
	 Find us on Facebook at <b>American Legion Family of Ames, IA Post 37</b>				FIREBALL FRIDAY	1
					MUNCHIES NIGHT	STEAK DINNER 5:00—7:00
2 SUPER BOWL PARTY BINGO	3 LEGION RIDERS 6:30	4 TOASTED CHEESE & SOUP AUXILIARY REGULAR 6:30	5 WEDNESDAY BINGO	6 DOLLAR DOG DAY LEGION BOARD 6:30 REGULAR 7:30	7 FIREBALL FRIDAY 40 & 8 CHILI FUNDRAISER	8
9 BINGO	10	11 TOASTED CHEESE & SOUP SAL REGULAR 6:30	12 WEDNESDAY BURGER NIGHT 5:00-6:30 BINGO	13 DOLLAR DOG DAY	14 FIREBALL FRIDAY MUNCHIES NIGHT	15 MIDWINTER CONFERENCE
16 MIDWINTER CONFERENCE BINGO	17 VFW POST MEETING 7:00	18 TOASTED CHEESE & SOUP PAST PRESIDENT'S PARLEY 7:00	19 WEDNESDAY BINGO	20 DOLLAR DOG DAY SOCIAL COMMITTEE 6:30	21 FIREBALL FRIDAY SOUP CONTEST BUILDING FUNDRAISER	22
23 BINGO	24	25 TOASTED CHEESE & SOUP 40&8	26 WEDNESDAY BINGO	27 DOLLAR DOG DAY OPERATIONS COMMITTEE 6:00	28 FIREBALL FRIDAY POTATO BAR	29