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DOUG MACRAE**



**UNIT  
PRESIDENT  
PAT KYLE**



**SQUADRON  
COMMANDER  
MIKE DEACON**

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

# Ames Legion Family In Action

## LEGION FAMILY MEMBERSHIP—WHAT IS IT WORTH?

As each year comes to an end, the Legion family leadership concentrates on completing our membership drive. For the Post and Squadron this year, that membership drive is doubly important due to the dues increase on January 1. The Unit is not dealing with a dues increase but their attention to membership is just as intense.

For those that have decided to renew and just haven't done it yet, now is the time. Once the New Year starts that 2012 membership card you are carrying around is not long valid. You need the 2013 card to remain a member in good standing

If you haven't made the decision to renew, this isn't your last chance but why wait? We so often hear that someone is not renewing because they can't come to the club for whatever reason. That reason is hard to accept since the Legion family is so much more than our club-room.

Each month in this newsletter, we tell the story of some-

thing we have done that month. Sometimes it is Boys and Girls State, one month it was a fundraiser for the Freedom Flight. Two months ago it was the Academic Awards.

The Unit raises money from poppy distribution that is spent on projects helping veterans. The Squadron awards scholarships each year at Ames High from money they have raised.

Beyond all our local activities are the things that happen in the state capitol and our national capitol. You can say that one member more or less doesn't make that much difference there but you would be wrong.

Each year our service officers are busier. We have three people in Des Moines and one in Iowa City. It is not unusual to find veterans waiting in the hallway to get help with their claims. We employ lobbyists who help us in Des Moines and Washington to ensure the funding is there for the Iowa Veterans Home, the Iowa Veterans cemetery and the VA. We have a national staff that visits VA hos-

pitals, works with the Regional offices to make their operations more accountable and provides expert help when a veterans claim ruling is appealed. That last group has

about a 70% success rate in getting unfavorable rulings overturned.

American Legion Baseball is not strong here in Iowa, but nationwide, nearly 11,000 young men play a game that your dues help support.

You have heard of Operation Comfort Warrior, help going directly to our wounded from you in the Legion family. Temporary Family Assistance helps the children of veterans who have emergency needs while the National Emergency Fund provides help for our members after disasters like Sandy.

The Legion family does all these things together. It doesn't matter if you are a member of the Post, Unit or Squadron, you are part of all of this. If your card doesn't say 2013, then you won't be helping after January 1. Give the Legion family a Christmas present and renew now. It is not just for us, it is for all those we help.



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## Post Commander Doug's Comments

My family and I extend our warmest wishes to the Post 37 Family for a warm and most joyous holiday with family and friends.

This issue of the Post Newsletter focuses on Membership. With just a month left until the start of the New Year we still have a fair number of members who have not yet renewed their memberships. I hope that the discussion of what your membership means and the impact that it has not only on our specific Post, but the American Legion as a whole will help you to better understand why each member is important.

As stated in last month's Newsletter, the Post By-laws have been changed to reflect that Legion dues are increasing to \$40.00 the first of the year. This is the first dues increase in several years and is necessitated by increased operating costs at the Department



level. Please take advantage of the membership savings, and renew your membership before January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013.

As the year comes to an end, many of us look to make a charitable gift to lower our payments to the IRS, or more hopefully, increase the amount we get back from the IRS. If you are looking for a location to make a charitable gift contribution before year's end, please consider making

a charitable gift to the Post Building Remodeling Fund. Your charitable gift to this Fund is tax deductible and will be put to very worthwhile use.

Finally, I am still in the process of learning all the nuances of being Post Commander. It has been and will continue to be a learning experience. As part of that learning experience I continue to receive feedback from the membership about our Post which has been very informative and enlightening. Every comment that I have received has been made in the interests of making our Post better, which is greatly appreciated. I encourage you to keep providing me those comments.

While I will not promise that we will be able to act on all of the recommendations or address all of the concerns that have been made, I do promise that they will be given thorough consideration.

## Unit President Pat's Comments

Wow, I can't believe Christmas time is once again upon us. There is always so much to do at this time of year. Our Unit will be having the annual COOKIE FAIR on December 8<sup>th</sup> along with the SAL Biscuits and Gravy Breakfast from 7:00 till 11:00. Please come in and join us it is always a great time and with the wide variety of cookies there is something for everyone.

I was unable to attend our November meeting as I was working the Election polls. It was nice to see a great turn out

this year. Several others of our Auxiliary members were working too. I hope everyone did get out and vote that is one of the perks of our great Country.

We have budgeted for Shop with a Cop – Boy's & Girls Club – Shoes that Fit just to name a few this is what your membership helps do. Please if you haven't already pay your dues so we can continue to help our Veterans and our Community.

The American Legion and Legion Auxiliary had the Iowa membership drive at our post on November 17<sup>th</sup> with about 100

Legion family members from around the state in attendance. They discussed ways to increase our membership. It was a very nice day.

As always we still need Bingo workers please help if you can Thank you.

I hope all of you had a wonderful Thanksgiving and look forward to seeing you at the Cookie Fair. I wish each and every one of you a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

God Bless

## Squadron Commander Mike's Comments

Well we are closing in on the end of the year so remember that if your dues are not paid before January 1<sup>st</sup>, it will cost you \$5.00 more if you are a senior member. That is because of the American Legion Dues increase at Post 37 and because our Squadron By Laws state that the Senior members pay the same as the American Legion members. Membership stands at 128 and our target is 161.

Hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving and did not stress out the scales too bad. Our annual Biscuits and Gravy Breakfast is fast approaching and we will need as much help as we can get. The date is December 8<sup>th</sup>. We start serving at 7am and go to 11am. This is run in conjunction with The Auxiliary

Cookie Fair so please plan to join us for both. Kitchen help needs to be there by 6am and servers by 6:45. The proceeds from this go to our Santa's Helper's program and our Scholarships. Thank you in advance for your support.

We had 2 Boy Staters at our November meeting. It is very refreshing to know that the future of our country is in very capable hands. Sam Jackson and Orion Boylston, thank you gentlemen for sharing your experiences with us.

As always we need your input in what we do, so please attend. I know that all suggestions have not happened, but that also depends on how many members we can get involved and have come to our meetings. Please plan to attend the De-

partment meeting and share your thoughts with us. It is really hard to get things done when we only have 5 or 6 members show up to a meeting.

Hope that everyone has a Very Merry Christmas and a Joyous New Year. May you all enjoy Family and Friends at this Special time of year. Now think of All OUR Service Men and Women that are thousands of miles from Home and how they will be spending the Holidays. I ask you to take a moment and remember them in your prayers and see if maybe you can do something to put a smile on their faces during this Special Time of year.

Until next month, God Bless Our Troops and God Bless America

## 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.

The Clubroom is excited to announce a fabulous winter drink menu. 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.

November was very busy at the post and an extra special thank you goes out to all of the volunteers that gave their time!!!

Introducing Toasted Cheese Tuesdays!!!! Every Tuesday this winter all are invited to enjoy a toasted cheese sandwich and a cup of soup for only \$2.

**Friday, December 7 is \$2 Burger Nite** and a visit from a special guest. Burgers will be served from 5:30-7pm. 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. Start your night off right with one of our many appetizers!

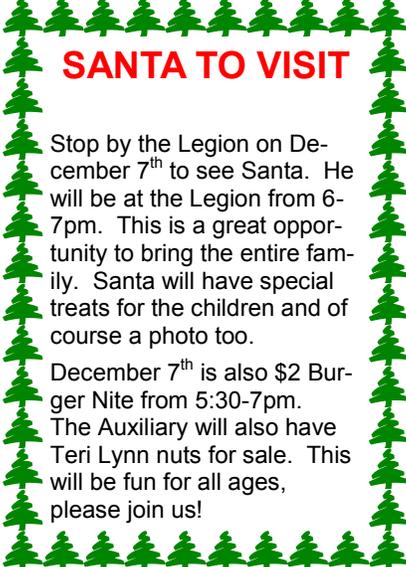
**Wednesday, December 19 is Tenderloin Basket Night.** It's getting busier and busier as we are quickly approaching the big day, so take a break from the hustle and bustle and let us cook for you. If you are on the go, call for a take-out order; we'll bring it right out the back door.

**Friday, December 21 is Texas Hold-Em.** Don't forget to mark it on your calendars. Play begins at 7pm, and please check in early.

December 24<sup>th</sup> 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.

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



**SANTA TO VISIT**

Stop by the Legion on December 7<sup>th</sup> to see Santa. He will be at the Legion from 6-7pm. This is a great opportunity to bring the entire family. Santa will have special treats for the children and of course a photo too.

December 7<sup>th</sup> is also \$2 Burger Nite from 5:30-7pm. The Auxiliary will also have Teri Lynn nuts for sale. This will be fun for all ages, please join us!

## Oratorical Contestant Qualified



The Ames Post has entered the Oratorical contest this year for the first time in several years. Umar Farooq, a senior at Gilbert High School, qualified at a quickly arranged local contest on November 18. He will now go on to the Story County contest to be held at the Ames Post on Thursday November 27 at 7:30.

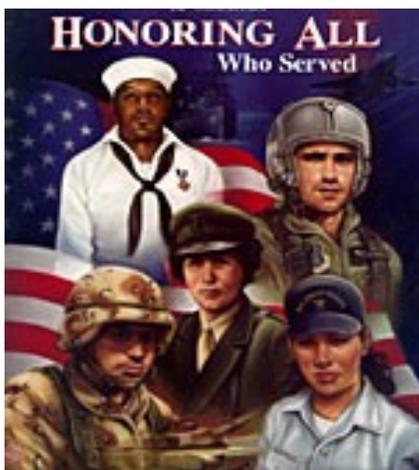
To the best of our knowledge no other Story County Post has a contestant so we anticipate that Umar will move on to the Sixth District contest on December 16. For now mark November 29 on your calendar. Umar is a very accomplished speaker. You will have a chance to hear him discuss the formation of the US Constitution and how the principles used in writing that document could be used in the political discussions of today.

## Rental Space

The Post has retail space for rent. The area is approximately 900 sq ft and includes new furnace and AC units. The space is located on the second floor above the east half of the post and is available immediately.

If you know of a retail or service business looking for space, have them contact the post at 232-9870 after 1PM for further details.

## A Stranger's Hero



Word, thought, and deed have all been freed...  
 Due to their answer to our country's need...  
 Throughout our history wars have come and gone...  
 The battles have changed as their reason have to...  
 Strategies... Weapons... Locations... and Foes...

One constant stands within...  
 The men and women who followed the call...  
 Bravery... Selflessness... Honor... and Diligence...  
 They fought for our country's protection and liberty...  
 Their Families... Loved Ones... Each Other... and Strangers...  
 Somewhere... Sometime... Somehow... One of these heroes fought for you...

One thing for sure I know...  
 Our freedom to them we do owe.  
 Chanelle Renae Trent  
 October 24, 2012  
 Written for Ute, IA Veterans Day

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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 <b>American Legion Family of Ames, IA Post 37</b>			COUNTY ORATORICAL 7:30		1 STEAK DINNER 5:30—7:00
2 BINGO	3 LEGION RIDERS	4 AUXILIARY REGULAR 7:00	5 BINGO	6 SOCIAL COMMITTEE 6:00	7 \$2 BURGER NITE SANTA VISIT	8 SAL BREAKFAST AUXILIARY COOKIE FAIR 7-11 AM
9 BINGO	10 BUILDING FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE	11 SAL REGULAR 6:30	12 BINGO	13 LEGION BOARD 6:30 REGULAR 7:30	14 MUNCHIES NIGHT	15
16 DISTRICT ORATORICAL BINGO	17	18 PAST PRESIDENT'S CHRISTMAS DINNER	19 TENDERLOIN 5:00-6:30 BINGO	20	21 TEXAS HOLD-EM 7:00 MUNCHIES NIGHT	22
23 BINGO	24 XMAS EVE HOURS 12-6	25 CHRISTMAS DAY CLUBROOM CLOSED	26 BINGO	27 OPERATIONS COMMITTEE 6:00	28 MUNCHIES NIGHT	29
30 BINGO	31					