

Christmas Thoughts from Commander Doug

Happy Holidays!

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

As we celebrate this holiday season, please be mindful of those still serving our country overseas and give thanks that we have young men and women around us who are willing to volunteer and answer the call to service. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers this holiday season.

We also need to be mindful of those less fortunate around us, both veterans and non-veterans and their families, and do what we can to brighten their lives this holiday season. Our Post Family will help provide Christmas to a veteran or two (and their family) in our area, but this year, more than ever, others can use your help as well.

When you hear that kettle bell ringing or see someone collecting for Holiday for Heroes, the Red Cross, Toys for Tots, or any other worthwhile cause, drop your spare change into their collection box. That little bit you drop in that container, along with the donations of others just like



you, quickly adds up and can make a real difference in someone's life this holiday season. Not only that, but I bet it will make you feel good too!

Don't forget to visit the Post home this month as we hold three of our biggest events of the year – Burger Night with Santa on December 7th and on December 8th, the Auxiliary's Annual Holiday Cookie Fair and the Sons Biscuits and Gravy Breakfast. Come join us for what is always a great time!

With the start of the New Year just around the corner, we still have a number of Post Family members who have not yet renewed their memberships. Your continued membership, and the recruitment of new members, is critical to the long term viability of not only our Post, but The American Legion as an organization (and The American Legion Family).

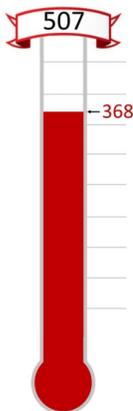
As we continue into our 100th year and beyond, the ongoing efforts of The American Legion to help and support veterans and their families has not diminished. If anything, the continued need for our advocacy has increased.

We cannot, and should not, lose sight of this main foundation of The American Legion Family as we reach out and support the veterans of all conflicts as well as the myriad of other vital national security missions our brave men and women volunteers are, or have, participated in. For our continued well-being, and the well-being of our newest veterans, please renew your membership today.

In closing, as the year comes to an end, many of us look to make a charitable gift to lower our payments to the IRS, or perhaps like me, increase the amount we get back from the IRS. If you are looking for a place 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.

Happy Holidays and I hope to see you around the Post.

Membership Creeping Up Slowly



The membership goal indicator continues to creep upward but not fast enough. We have 368 members renewed for 2019 or 72.6% or our goal of 507. The next target date is 75% by Dec 12. We are sure to make that 75% but just getting there is not good enough.

That also puts us right in the middle of the pack in the Sixth District. That is not a bad place to be if we consider our post to be average. Average is not good enough though, we are much better than that.

We are the largest post in the District and the fifth largest in the state. If we don't get our work done and make our membership goal, everyone else gets dragged down a little. Have you renewed? If not, there is no better time than now.

Don't forget that you can renew online with a credit card if that is how you wish to pay. Go to www.legion.org and click renew. Thanks to everyone that has already renewed. We can't do it without you.

Inside this issue:

Unit President	2
Squadron Commander	2
National Commander	2
Clubroom Events	3
Law Officer of the Year	3
Santa to Visit Post	3
Post History Continues	3

Unit President Jammie's Comments

Greetings Ladies!

I hope everyone enjoyed their Thanksgiving and you are looking forward to Christmas and the New Year. We have a lot of events coming up in December and I look forward to seeing all of you at some point. At the November meeting several unit members brought in their certificates for the ALA 101 course, thank you to everyone that participated. I extended the challenge to the December meeting so I look forward to seeing more certificates.

We have the ALA Holiday Cookie Fair

coming up on December 8th; if you have not received a call requesting to bake cookies please take this as a personal invitation. As always, drop off will begin Friday evening.

This is an awesome opportunity to support your American Legion Auxiliary programs and to get into the holiday spirit. We look forward to seeing you on the 8th and we look forward to tasting all of those yummy cookies! We will also have nuts available for sale during the events on both the 7th and 8th.

Membership is important for our organi-

zation; it is through our membership that we are able to participate in programs that support our Veterans, our military and our community. As we approach the end of the year please remember to send in your 2019 dues. It is also important to recruit new members whenever you have the opportunity; we all have a "WHY" and it is important to share with others "WHY" you support the American Legion Auxiliary.

The next Unit meeting will be held December 4th, at 6:30 p.m. As always I look forward to seeing you all there!

Squadron Commander Mike's Comments

As winter is approaching, I hope all of you had a good Thanksgiving. We had our Steak Dinner in November, and it went well. We now look ahead to our Biscuits and Gravy Breakfast on December 8th. The annual cookie fair is taking place that day, so come on down and support the Legion Family.

After a long process of making changes, suggestions and updates, our Squadron has a new set of Constitution and By-Laws along with updated and revised Standing Rules. I want to thank all of the members who participated in this effort and provided insight and leadership in the process. This is not

an easy task, and is very time consuming, which their efforts now show with a completed project.

As far as membership goes, we are over half way to the goal. As of January 1, if you have not renewed your dues, you are considered delinquent, and then you are not eligible to apply for any assistance from the National Emergency Fund, or any of the many assistance programs that the American Legion offers. Also your job to gain access to the post will become ineffective. Remember also the reason and the veteran you are honoring by renewing your membership, so stop on down

and renew your dues.

Last month the Legion family presented the Academic Awards to the Ames High School. We presented the Academic Award to over 250 students at Ames High School. If you get a chance to come to one of these and support the students, and represent the Legion family, I recommend it as it is a great opportunity to see one of our Legion programs in effect. These students are our future, and I see no better way that we can show them how much we support them by showing up to this award ceremony.

Thanksgiving Thoughts from Commander Reistad



Dear American Legion Family and Friends,
We have so much to be thankful for at this time of the year.

Many of us will spend time with family members, friends and other loved ones celebrating Thanksgiving. We'll enjoy hearty feasts, relish fond memories, and give thanks and prayers for all of our blessings.

As veterans, we know all too well how important it is to be with loved ones on special holidays. I don't have to remind you to keep our servicemembers – especially those on deployment – in our thoughts during this holiday time.

Fortunately, there are American Legion posts that welcome servicemembers into their homes for a Thanksgiving meal and camaraderie. It's a great way to introduce these troops to our American Legion Family.

At the same time, American Legion posts are providing food, fun and fellowship throughout their communities. Take, for example:

- American Legion Post 38 in Fountain, Colo., which has amassed 100 turkeys and all the trimmings. The food is part of an annual giveaway to help needy families in the neighborhood.

Post 38 partners with Fountain police to identify needy families and distribute the food to them.

- In Illinois, American Legion posts in Palatine (Post 690) and Morton Grove (Post 134) host sailors from Great Lakes Naval Station for a Thanksgiving meal and provide the opportunity for their guests to call or email home free of charge.

- American Legion Post 31 in Salinas, Calif., will be serving around 600 meals at its 20th annual Thanksgiving celebration. The post also is hosting a drive to collect jackets, which will be distributed to those in need during the meal.

- In Polk City, Iowa, American Legion Riders deliver Thanksgiving meals through their Holiday for Heroes program. More than 80 area veterans will get a complete Thanksgiving meal that they can prepare in their own homes for family and friends.

These are just a few of the countless examples of how American Legion Family members are serving their communities during this time of the year. Share how your post, squadron, chapter and/or unit is demonstrating its commitment to community service on Legiontown.

There are many reasons why I love The American Legion. Among the top reasons is the way we support our local communities, especially during holiday seasons.

Thank you for what you do throughout the year, and especially during this special time.

Happy Thanksgiving to you, your families and the communities you so proudly serve.

Celebrating Our Legacy.

Brett Reistad, National Commander

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 some great drink specials and some new drinks for you to enjoy.

Weekly drawing bonus night!! The end of the year bonus drawings will be held Tuesday 18th. 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.

Thirsty Thursday-Featuring \$1 Hot Dogs all night and \$2 Domestic Bottles all day!

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 7th 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 8th SAL Biscuits & Gravy and Auxiliary Cookie sale 7-11am

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.

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

Please note that we will be closed on Christmas day.

December 14th Tenderloin night 5:00-7:00 Join us for tenderloin baskets for \$6.00.

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.

THANK YOU Thanks to everyone who has helped out around the clubroom this last month. We couldn't do it without you. John and Lynn Sellmeyer, John Schomaker, Chris Duncan, Joan Schoenbaum, Phil Harris, Sandy Deacon, Mike Deacon, Ken Woodley, Sandi Lawrence, Bill Donovan, Randy Freel and Russ and Vicki Belz.



Law Officer of the Year Chosen



The Ames Post nominee for American Legion Law Officer of the Year will be presented at the December regular meeting.

The nominee is Deputy Jason Grubbs from the Story County Sheriff's Office. Deputy Grubbs is a 12 year veteran of the Story County Sheriff's force and graduated 5th in his Iowa Law Enforcement Academy class of 38. In addition to his patrol duties, Deputy Grubbs has served as the patrol training officer for the Sheriff's Office.

Deputy Grubbs is a US Air Force veteran with service in Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom, Noble Anvil and Desert Fox.

He is active in the First Responder Peer Support Foundation. That Foundation will receive a donation in Deputy Grubbs' name in honor of his selection.

Santa Coming to Post

Stop by the Legion on Friday, December 7th to see Santa and Mrs Claus. Santa will be at the Legion at 5pm. We will be having our burger night as well so stay and enjoy a burger basket for just \$5. Santa will have special treats for the children and of course a photo too. We will also have a kids craft table set up. This is fun for all ages, please join us!

Ames American Legion History



The next article in the series of the history of the Ames American Legion Post was published November 23, 2018. This article dealt with the role that the post played in the highway safety program in the 1930's.

The story begins with a presentation by George Voth of the American Legion Department Highway Safety committee. He presentation highlighted the dangers that were met every day by the motoring public. He stated that each year, the same number of Americans were dying on the highways and roads of the United States as had been killed in WW I.

The story goes on from there to document the role played by the Post not just in American Legion affairs but in the improvement of highway safety throughout the state for all motorists. You can find the story in the news section of the Tribune website. The stories are also being posted on the Ames Post website.

Next month's Ames Tribune story will highlight the role played by the Ames American Legion family in making Christmas 1932 much brighter for many Ames children during one of the worst years of the Great Depression.

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>
 Find us on Facebook at American Legion Family of Ames, IA Post 37			Six Bonus Drawings will be Held on Tuesday December 18 Every 30 minutes Beginning at 6PM			1 STEAK DINNER 5:00—7:00
2 BINGO	3 LEGION RIDERS 6:30	4 TOASTED CHEESE & SOUP AUXILIARY REGULAR 6:30	5 WEDNESDAY BINGO	6 DOLLAR DOG DAY	7 FIREBALL FRIDAY BURGER NIGHT WITH SANTA & MRS CLAUS	8 BREAKFAST & COOKIE FAIR 7-11AM
9 BINGO	10	11 TOASTED CHEESE & SOUP SAL REGULAR 6:30	12 WEDNESDAY BINGO	13 DOLLAR DOG DAY LEGION BOARD 6:30 REGULAR 7:30	14 FIREBALL FRIDAY TENDERLOIN BASKETS	15
16 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 MUNCHIES NIGHT	22
23 BINGO	24 XMAS EVE CLUBROOM CLOSE AT 6	25	26 WEDNESDAY BINGO	27 DOLLAR DOG DAY OPERATIONS COMMITTEE 6:00	28 FIREBALL FRIDAY MUNCHIES NIGHT	29
30 BINGO	31 NEW YEARS EVE	CHRISTMAS DAY CLUBROOM CLOSED				