



**POST
COMMANDER
DOUG MACRAE**



**UNIT
PRESIDENT
PAT KYLE**



**SQUADRON
COMMANDER
MIKE DEACON**

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Ames Legion Family In Action

Commander's Message for the New Year

Happy New Year! 2013 has arrived and it brings with it the hope that it will be an even better year than 2012 was for the Ames Legion Family.

As we start the New Year we often take time to reflect on the past year and wonder how it will influence the new year, for there can be little doubt that the past, particularly the recent past, helps shape the future. It is no different for our Post.

I think we can all agree that 2012 was a year full of change and challenge for the Post. We embarked upon a remodeling project that both challenged and improved our Post, leaving us with a more open, comfortable, congenial, and most certainly cost effective place to gather and enjoy one another's company. This project would not have been successfully completed if it were not for the energetic efforts and vision of the Post Remodeling Committee.

We all owe our thanks and gratitude to Jill and Larry Goodale, Sandy and Mike Deacon, Sarah Schendel, Ron Eagan, Dave and Ann Rehbein, John Schomaker, Everett Freel, Michelle Sime, Randy Freel, Joan Schoenbaum, Howard Kyle, Paul Madson, Tiffany Wingert, Monte Gibbs and Jan Schmidt, along with our many generous contributors, who helped bring this project to reality.

The professionals of Geisinger Construction, ICS Advanced Technologies, Hoff Mechanical, Thompson Electric, Roseland, Mackey & Harris Architects, G.C. Woodworking, Lester Refrigeration, Mullenbach Con-

struction, Plumb Supply, Bierl Carpet One, C and K, Winkler & Sons, Ames Environmental, Howes Welding, MidWest Auto Fire Sprinkler, Dean Snyder Construction, D.R. Masonry, and H.L. Munn who took the vision and made it a reality.

Our reopening on June 1st would not have been possible without the dedicated assistance of Jill Goodale, Andrea Cook, Scott Benson, Tom Hadaway, Sandy & Mike Deacon, Joan & Larry Schoenbaum, Aaron Slaichert, Phil & Barb Schendel and others who have probably been overlooked who generously gave of their time to help Sarah clean, restock and prepare the Post for our members and guests.

Our membership continues to be strong due to the dedicated efforts of Marion Eacret and Lois Poppe.

Daily operations are, for the most part, smooth due in large part to the tremendous efforts of our fantastic and friendly staff – Sarah, Joan, Andrea, Leah, Jenna, Jesse and Nick.

Our wonderful committee members and volunteers make the many varied events, both regularly scheduled and the occasional, of the Post appear to happen so effortlessly. Whether it be Bingo, Academic Awards, monthly dinners, Boys and Girls State or Oratorical, our committee members and volunteers all pull together to make these events first rate and reflect positively on our Post.

So, what is in store for the New Year? Yes- more of the same; but, with your ideas and inputs, an even better year and fun

filled year than 2012.

We will also continue to look at improving the effectiveness and efficiency of our post operations, our committees and our regularly scheduled events in order to increase the interest and participation of Post Members and their guests.

The January calendar is full of events for our members and their guests to enjoy, to participate in, and to help make successful. I encourage you to join us at any one of these events and enjoy the camaraderie of your fellow Post members and relax in the Post Home. Your support volunteering at one of these events would also be greatly appreciated.

In closing, I ask that you remember that this is our Post - the Ames American Legion Post. Together we thrive and prosper as an American Legion family- Legionaires, Auxiliary, Sons and Riders together. It takes all of us, with that common goal, to make our Post the best in the Department. I look forward to seeing you at the Post.

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Dues Increase Happens January 1—Why Renew?

For those American Legion and Sons of the American Legion members who have not renewed for 2013 yet, you still have a few days before the dues increase goes into effect on January 1.

Last month the front page article talked about the value of membership and listed a few of the things that are accomplished because you are a member of The American Legion family. Earlier this month a more specific example of the value of membership came to light.

The Fort Wayne VAMC closed its acute and intensive care services on Oct 22 due to problems with no information provided on the schedule to reopen. Quite obviously those veterans being served by that VAMC became worried about when, if ever, the hospital would reopen and services restored.



that facility on December 4-5 and interviewed the local leadership. The Task Force recognized a number of problems that affected the quality and safety of medical care but their first recommendation and the strongest was to ensure that the veterans being served by the facility understood the reasons behind

Hearing those concerns, the Legion's System Worth Saving Task Force visited

the closure and the schedule for re-opening.

Now why is what happened in Fort Wayne important to you? Those veterans in that area are our comrades. Without a strong membership, we would not have the Task Force to make that visit. Those comrades of ours in Fort Wayne would still be waiting for someone to step up on their behalf. Being here for them now is why we were formed after WW I.

So remember, if you renew before January 1, that \$5 stays in your pocket. Regardless though, whenever you renew, it is about being there for our comrades. Beyond that, someday you might need your comrades to be there for you. We stood together once, let's stay together now.

Unit President Pat's Comments

I hope everyone had a Happy Holiday! We had a very good turn out for our Cookie Fair. Thank you to all of you who donated the thousands of cookies. A special thank you to all who purchased the boxes of cookies, and all of our ALA members who worked putting all those cookies out. Without you it wouldn't have ran as smoothly as it did. At our December meeting we had two guest speakers. Jathan Chicoine is the coordinator of Veterans Service Center at Iowa State University. He and his staff are there to assist the Veteran

students. Their office and lobby are at the Memorial Union. He was most informative and gave us a better knowledge of the many things that they do to help our Veterans.

Iris Brenner was our other guest. She told us of her experiences at Girls State. She was impressed by her new knowledge of how government works. We enjoyed her speech very much.

We will be having our January meeting on Thursday January 3rd.

We still have some ladies who have not

paid their dues. PLEASE get them in as soon as possible we need you to keep doing what we do.

I know we are all very busy in our day to day lives but we still need your help yes I do mean BINGO workers are still needed please if you can try and sign up for a night.

May your NEW YEAR be a Happy and fulfilling one.

God Bless

Pat

Squadron Commander Mike's Comments

Well I thought that I had my thoughts together for my bulletin article and then the tragedy in Connecticut happened, so things changed. First I would suggest to all of you that you go to those people that are most important in your life and let them know just how very important they are to you. Please keep all the families from this gruesome and senseless act in your Prayers.

I hope that you all had a Wonderful and Merry Christmas and that you had the opportunity to be with those you love. I wish you all a Happy New Year.

Thank you to those members that came down and helped with our Biscuits & Gravy Breakfast. Your help was greatly appreciated. We believe that this was our largest breakfast we have ever had, give or take a few we believe we served about 210 people. I would also like to

thank all those that attended with your support we were able to help 3 veterans families, so that they might be able to have a Merry Christmas.

Membership at this time stands at 148 remember those of you that are over 21 as of January 1st Dues increase by \$5.00, so if you want to save those extra bucks, pay your dues now.

Our Scholarship Committee is working on this year's application and we hope it will be in the schools by the first part of January. It is due back to us by March 15th. The question is designed to be current and asks about Electoral votes versus Popular vote. Our thinking is that these young people are our future and that these are issues that will affect them.

I would invite you to really consider

attending The Mid-Winter Conference the first weekend in February. I know that the host hotel is booked but even if you can just come down for the day there is a ton of information to share, remember Des Moines is not that far. Our Guests will be The National Commander of The American Legion, The National President of The American Legion Auxiliary, and The National Commander of The Sons of The American Legion.

We are currently making plans to have a breakfast in the Spring and the Auxiliary is planning a Bake Sale. Keep watching the bulletin for more information, or come on down to a meeting and let us know what you think.

Well till next year, Be Safe and remember to Support Our Troops.

Clubroom News

Happy New Year to all!! We hope that everyone had a joyous Holiday season. December was very busy in the Clubroom and we want to thank everyone for your continued support. Thanks to everyone who volunteered, we can't do it without you!!

Bring it on!!! We want you to bring down your very best chili for our **Annual Chili Cook-off**. You may drop off your chili on the 31st or the morning of the 1st. We also encourage those not competing to bring a snack to share. There are prizes for first, second, and third place. As a bonus, the winner has bragging rights all year long. Of course, all are welcome to come in and sample all the delicious entries and watch some

football.

Don't forget that the post is the ultimate place to enjoy all the bowl game action. We encourage you to stop down and enjoy all the football games with us on our enormous TV.

Drop by and check out our Happenings! Find out about new drinks, appetizer specials and a whole lot more! Don't forget that the clubroom serves a great home-made meal every Wednesday; eat in or take it to go.

Wednesday, January 16 is Tenderloin Basket Night. Tenderloins are served for 5-6:30pm and as usual only \$5.00 served with all your favorite toppings and French fries. Stop in and enjoy one or get it to go!!!

American Legion Tagline Contest

Part of every company's identity is its tagline. During the next few years as part of The American Legion's strategy for continuous growth we will have to concentrate much more on marketing our name and what we do than we've ever had to in the past.

None do as much for active-duty military, veterans, military retirees and their families as does The American Legion. And, yet, we have no consistent tagline that readily tells people who we are, what we do, or who we do it for. Each National Commander has a slogan and they are well thought out and well themed, but they don't lend a permanent identity to the Legion. The goal is to adopt a tagline which is so significant that all of the public will

recognize it, associate it with The American Legion, and know what is our "reason for being." Even though it must be short and pithy, it must be filled with content and phrased in a memorable and catchy way. You can help us craft an American Legion tagline by submitting your ideas to tagline@legion.org. All submissions must be received no later than April 19, 2013, in order to be considered. The Internal Affairs Commission will be the final reviewer of submissions, and will draft a resolution recommending a permanent tagline to the National Executive Committee who will make the final decision.

If your tagline is the one recommended to the NEC, and adopted exactly as submitted, you will receive a \$500

check, and a Certificate of Appreciation plaque signed by the National Commander in recognition of your winning entry. The winning entry will be posted on www.Legion.org after the NEC meets in mid-May 2013. In the event of duplicate winning entries, the earliest received will be declared the winner.

Remember: April 19, 2013, is the deadline, and the email address is: tagline@legion.org Please include your name and phone number on each entry. Only one entry per email submission. All entries will be acknowledged by a return email. Save that return receipt as proof of your submission.

Building Fundraisers

Soup Contest & Dinner: January 11, 2013 from 6:00 -7:30 PM.

Bring your favorite soup along with a compliment to your soup and join the competition. First place winner will receive a \$15.00 Fareway Gift Card, runners up will receive Fareway Gift Cards as well. Free will donation proceeds will go to support the Building Remodeling Fund. Please have your soup at the Post by 5:45 PM.

Free Will Donation Brunch: January 20th at the Post from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM to support the Building Remodeling Fund. If interested in contributing food items to the Brunch, please contact Sarah at the Post no later than January 14th.



Legion Riders Update

The American Legion Riders Chapter is comprised of members of the American Legion Family who enjoy riding motorcycles.

Chapter 37 was created last year, and has continued to grow. This past year, we rode in several events, including the Memorial Day parade, the 4th of July parade, and the Freedom Flight Sendoff.



We helped with barricades for the State Convention parade, participated in the Motorcycle Safety Forum, had flaglines for funerals, and went on weekly dinner rides. We have also had a variety of fundraisers and made donations to the Legion Building Fund, the Legion's National Emergency Fund (for hurricane Sandy victims) and the Story County Freedom Flight.

If you have a motorcycle of 350cc or larger and would like to join the fun, please contact Sue Jones (steve.sue.jones@gmail.com) or come to a meeting at the Post on the 1st Monday of the month at 6:30 pm.

AMES POST NO. 37
 225 Main Street
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LOOK INSIDE FOR COUPON

JANUARY

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
		1 NEW YEARS DAY CHILI COOK-OFF	2 BINGO	3 SOCIAL COMMITTEE 6:00 AUXILIARY REGULAR 7:00	4 MUNCHIES NIGHT	5 STEAK DINNER 5:30—7:00
6 BINGO	7 LEGION RIDERS 6:30	8 SAL REGULAR 6:30	9 BINGO	10 LEGION BOARD 6:30 REGULAR 7:30	11 SOUP CONTEST & DINNER 5:30-7:00	12
13 BINGO	14 BUILDING FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE	15	16 TENDERLOIN 5:00-6:30 BINGO	17	18 MUNCHIES NIGHT	19
20 BRUNCH 11:00AM-1:00PM BINGO	21	22 40&8	23 BINGO	24 OPERATIONS COMMITTEE 6:00	25 TEXAS HOLD-EM 7:00 MUNCHIES NIGHT	26
27 BINGO	28	29	30 BINGO	31		