



Post Commander: Jay Sisco
Unit President: Rachel Breyfogle
Squadron Commander: Doug MacCrea
Chapter President: Cliff Barker

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225 Main Street
 Ames, IA 50010
 515-232-9870

www.ameslegionpost37.com
www.ialegion.org
www.iowaala.org
www.ialegion.org/riders

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

Ames Legion Family In Action

Would Ames Miss The Legion Family?

A question like that is asked at almost every state and national meeting. If The American Legion family were not here, would we be missed? If as a member of The American Legion family, if you weren't here, would you be missed?

The answer to both those questions right now is definitely YES, we would be missed and you would be missed.

Just in the last two months, our community has benefited from the recognition of 250 Ames High students with academic excellence, the announcement of a \$1,000 scholarship to be awarded at Ames or Gilbert High Schools, a veteran's family received a Christmas that they would not have without the Legion family and over 1,500 wreaths were placed on veterans' graves.

Those things only happen because our membership enables it. That is important right now because every member that is not renewed for 2022 will become delinquent on January 1.

Everyone of our leadership columns, Commander Jay, President Rachel and Commander Doug talks about the membership struggles we are having right now. Those struggles reach outside the post home though. Every member that doesn't renew causes our programs to be just that much smaller.

Why are our programs that important? After all, we are a veterans service organization, not a community service organization. The answer to that question goes back almost 100 years now

In 1922, Past National Commander Hanford MacNider spoke about the "Iowa idea". That idea being that

The American Legion needed to have a strong involvement in their local communities to become and remain a strong organization. Commander MacNider was right then and he is still right today.

We served our country once, now we serve our country through service in our community. Commander Jay and President Rachel both spoke about needing volunteers and we do. First though, we need veterans and veteran family members to become Legion family members and then have them become volunteers.

If your membership card says 2022, THANK YOU. If it doesn't, why not. Please renew and help make your Legion family stronger and the Ames/Gilbert community a better place to live. Check the dues amounts on the next page and get renewed.

New Branding Logo

You may have seen the new logo displayed here especially if you have The American Branded Indycar driven by Jimmy Johnson. Please be clear that this new branding logo does not replace the emblem that has represented our organization for over 100 years.

This new branding logo is intended to represent our organization to the general public. Our

 emblem remains the official emblem and will be used in

all official communication. Representing ourselves to nonmembers can be difficult with an emblem as complex as ours. A simpler branding logo like this can spread our message to nonmembers better since it is simpler and easier to understand especially in places like the race car. Look for it more in the future

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Post Commander Jay's Comments

Let me start by saying, I hope everyone had a very Happy Holiday! Certainly, this year's holiday season was a bit better than 2020. While 2021 was better, we still have the specter of Covid hanging over us as we enter the new year, preventing a full return to normalcy. Hopefully in 2022 the light at the end of the tunnel will get brighter.

I want to commend Cliff Barker and the Legion Riders for their work on Wreaths Across America. Through their efforts on fundraising and the donations that Legion members and others made, they were able to place wreaths on 90% of the veteran's graves in Ames Municipal Cemetery. I was honored to be asked to place the wreath honoring all Navy veteran's during the wreath laying ceremony. Thank you to all the members that turned out and volunteered to place wreaths on the veteran's graves.

I've been asked to say a few words about membership, so I will. First let me

start by saying that the Early Bird Dinner will be held in conjunction with the January Steak Night on Saturday, January 8th. If you pay your dues on or before January 8th, you will receive \$2.00 off the price of your dinner. So, you have the opportunity to renew your membership, support the Post, and get a good deal all at the same time. Secondly, I draw from the wreath laying ceremony. While not specifically spoken, the words "All gave some, and some gave All", were certainly implied. I'm going to be blunt, and that may ruffle some feathers, but when it comes to membership, only half of the phrase is true, "Some gave All". By that I mean that the same people show up to support whatever Post function is going on, Steak Night, Bingo, Honor guard, curbside dinners, putting flags up, or even simply attending meetings. I know there are many older, long-time members who have given of their time and talents in the past, and some continue

to do so, my comments aren't directed to them. There are other members who prefer to support the Post through donations and that is much appreciated. However, there are many that do nothing. I'm sure there are many reasons for this, no time, family commitments, work, etc. I'm not saying you need to be involved in everything, but get involved in something! The simplest way is to attend the monthly meeting. These are open meetings and you can hear what is being planned and even provide input into the decision-making process. Simply attending the meeting does not commit you to anything. The Post is only as good as it's members. Be part of something, help the Post help the community and your fellow veteran's. Be part of the "All who gave some".

In closing I want to wish all of you a very Happy, Healthy, and Prosperous New Year! I look forward to seeing you at the Post. Take care and stay safe!

Unit President Rachel's Comments

Happy New Year from President Rachel! I hope that 2022 has greeted you with good health and well-being. We are seeing more and more activities and events happen around the Post Home. Last month our Unit had a successful Cookie Fair. It was great to see this come back and so many varieties of Holiday cookies! Our Holiday for Heroes was also a success. We adopted a local veteran family in need. A small tree with tags was in place at our Cookie Fair and in the Clubroom. We've had a generous outpouring of support for wanting to help this family out. THANK YOU for helping this family have a wonderful Christmas! Thank you also to everyone who helped out with getting, wrapping and delivery of these gifts.

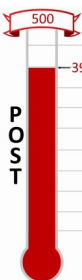

As we enter this new year, remember our members that are unable to get out due to the weather, cold or other reasons that may prevent them from coming. Check up on our Legion Family

members with a phone call. We are entering the dark days of winter, so why not cheer someone up with a phone call!

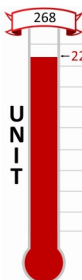

Our Post home is in need of volunteers. We've all heard the saying "Many hands make light work". This is also true at our Post home. We are in need of volunteers to help with Bingo on Sundays. There are also many other ways that members help and many are behind the scenes, not just for an event. One way is to save your sturdy plastic bags, cut them into strips and tie them together to make plarn. What is plarn? It is literally plastic yarn. When done tying, you can roll it up into balls and bring them to the Post. Do you like to crochet? Why not take some of the plarn balls and crochet a sleeping mat for a homeless veteran. If you have the skills, and would like to help, please contact me and I can get you instructions.

Do you know of a daughter or granddaughter of a veteran? Did you know they could be eligible to be a Junior member? How about a spouse of a veteran? If you answered "yes" to these questions, then see about getting them signed up for membership in our Legion Family. Another way to volunteer is to mentor a Junior or new member and let them know what the Auxiliary does and how they can be a part of this organization. There are many opportunities for the younger members to be involved. Junior Shooting Sports, Cookie Fair and the Oratorical Contest are a couple ways to be involved with our Legion Family. Coming up in the next couple months, the National Juniors meeting will be taking place in person once again. The Central Division will take place in February in Indianapolis. The closest one to us is Omaha in April. This takes place simultaneously with senior member training sessions. Stay warm and stay healthy!



Membership Standings and Dues Amounts

American Legion dues are \$45. Renewal can be paid by check or cash sent to the Post at 225 Main or by credit card at the Post. Paid Up For Life applications can be picked at the post.

American Legion Auxiliary dues are \$30 for adult members, \$5 for junior members and \$20 for dual members. Dual members are members of the American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary.

Sons of The American Legion Dues are \$45 for adult members, \$15 for junior members and \$15 for dual members. Dual members are members of The American Legion and the Sons of The American Legion.

Squadron Commander Doug's Comments

Happy New Year! It is hard to believe that it is 2022!

Each New Year brings with it new resolutions and self-made promises to make 2022 better than 2021. I hope that all of you are successful in making those resolutions a reality. 2021 was a challenging year for each of us individually but also for our Squadron and the Post due in large part to the pandemic. With your dedicated assistance, our Squadron helped our Legion Family and Post overcome those challenges created by the pandemic and keep our Squadron and Post able to meet all of the demands and requests placed upon us.

As we kick off this New Year, I would also ask that you consider making, as one of your New Year's resolutions, a renewed effort to increase your participation at the Post. If you only have the time to stop in once or twice a month, it helps ensure the vitality of the Post and

gives you the opportunity to renew acquaintances with old friends, meet new friends, and continue to support your fellow veterans and their families,

We are now facing another challenge as a Squadron, and your assistance is again needed. As we enter the new year, our membership is down. I am disappointed to say that as a Squadron we are behind in our membership renewals and will have not met our January 1 membership goal for the first time in many years. We knew that we would not be able to retain a dozen or so members this year for various reasons. That said, we still have a fairly large number of Squadron mates that have not yet renewed their membership. You still have time to renew. If you have not renewed your membership, please do so as quickly as possible. We value your membership, and without it, we cannot support the programs that are so important to our organization and

Legion Riders

Whew... What a day. Thank you everyone for your help in making Wreath Day 2021 such an incredible success. Yesterday, December 18th, almost 100 volunteers met at Ames Cemetery for a brief ceremony and some kind words from Ames Mayor, John Haila. After the ceremony concluded all of these volunteers wasted no time and got busy placing over 1500 wreaths for our veterans. In a touch over 90 minutes, all of the wreaths were placed, each of the veterans names were said aloud, the empty boxes were broken down and taken away, and behind us was an incredible sight to behold. Green balsam wreaths dotted the cemetery in every direction, with the bright red ribbons standing out proudly.

Proud is what I am of your Legion Riders. I would like you to be too. The amount of time, effort, and dedication to bringing this to fruition was incredible. Each of the wreath presenters did a great job. A special thank you to the many sponsors we've had in 2021, at many different levels, and a partial list can be seen currently at the post. Also I would like to thank Brian Holdeman and the Patriot Guard Riders for the incredible flag display and for standing a flag line while each of the wreaths were presented.

In case I haven't made it clear, there are so many moving pieces, and terrific volunteers behind the scenes, that without them none of this would have been

possible.

That is why I have nothing but optimism for 2022.

Did you know that from now until January 14th every donation you make to WAA/Ames will be matched on a 1 for 1 basis? This would double your donation, just visit <https://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/ia0044>. We also have a pancake and sausage breakfast as our first fundraiser planned for January 22nd. Stay tuned for more details.

But, enough of wreaths for a while, winter is upon us. Some of us logged quite a few December miles with the unusual warm days of the last 2 weeks or so. If you do venture out, remember no one is looking for motorcycles right now, and while the streets may look clear they may still be very slippery. Going into 2022 we have a new Secretary joining our Officers as we welcome new ALA member Denise Sargent to the position. Denise and the other officers will be installed at our January 3rd meeting, where we will begin accepting nominations for supporting members of the Legion Riders. If you don't ride, and still would like to join us, come to the January meeting or let one of your Legion Riders know as soon as possible.

Until then, ride safe, and ride often.

Cliff B.

ALR Director

community. If you renew by January 8th, you will receive a discount at the January Steak Dinner.

Congratulations to Randy Breyfogle for winning the Monthly Meeting Drawing – a Casey's Gift Card.

In closing, I wish each of you a joyous and prosperous 2022 and hope that you will be able to visit the Post a little more often and participate in some of our wonderful Post events.

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 had one of our busiest months since the pandemic started. Thank you to everyone that continues to support us. We hope to make 2022 a great one!

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. Please have your chili here by 1pm.

Don't forget that the post is the ultimate place to enjoy all your favorite sports events. Come join us and cheer on your team with us!

Curbside Meals

Wed. Jan 5-Chicken and Noodles

Wed. Jan 12-Meatloaf

Wed. Jan 19-Hot Beef

Wed. Jan 26-Tex-Mex

Friday, January 21-Fish Fry 5-7pm. It's time for another fish fry! Stop down to the post to share a great meal with friends.



Thanks to all that made the events happen this month and for a very fun and festive clubroom Christmas party. Ken Woodley, Mike Deacon, Sandy Deacon, Tom Fowler, Julie Rinard, Bill Donovan, Addison Donovan and Colten Christiansen


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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>
YOUTH AIR RIFLE 1-3 AT IZAAK WALTON		 Find us on Facebook at American Legion Family of Ames, IA Post 37				1 CHILI COOK-OFF DELIVER ENTRY BY 1PM
2 BINGO	3 LEGION RIDERS 6:30	4 TOASTED CHEESE & SOUP AUXILIARY REGULAR 6:30	5 WINESDAY WEDNESDAY CURBSIDE MEAL CHICKEN & NOODLES	6 DOLLAR DOG DAY OPERATIONS COMMITTEE 6:00	7 FIREBALL FRIDAY MUNCHIES NIGHT	8 STEAK DINNER 5:00—7:00
9 BINGO	10	11 TOASTED CHEESE & SOUP SAL REGULAR 6:30	12 WINESDAY WEDNESDAY CURBSIDE MEAL MEATLOAF	13 DOLLAR DOG DAY LEGION REGULAR 7:00	14 FIREBALL FRIDAY MUNCHIES NIGHT	15
16 BINGO	17 VFW POST MEETING 7:00	18 TOASTED CHEESE & SOUP	19 WINESDAY WEDNESDAY CURBSIDE MEAL HOT BEEF	20 DOLLAR DOG DAY SOCIAL COMMITTEE 6:00	21 FIREBALL FRIDAY FISH FRY 5:00—7:00	22 RIDERS BREAKFAST
23 BINGO	24	25 TOASTED CHEESE & SOUP 40&8	26 WINESDAY WEDNESDAY CURBSIDE MEAL TEX-MEX	27 DOLLAR DOG DAY	28 FIREBALL FRIDAY MUNCHIES NIGHT	29