

Ames Legion Family In Action

Veterans Day on the Hill

Members of the Iowa Legion family braved the cold on January 19 to make personal visits to our legislators and discuss issues of importance to us and the veterans of Iowa. Those issues were:

USS IOWA Commissioning Committee Financial Support. The Iowa American Legion supports a state appropriation of not less than \$100,000 to provide funding support for those items associated with the christening, commissioning, and outfitting of the USS IOWA (SSN -797) that are not able to be funded through federally appropriated funds.

This position originated with the Ames Post. The Iowa legislature is considering an appropriation of \$200,000.

County Commission of Veterans Affairs Fund. The American Legion Department



of Iowa supports an increase to the annual appropriation to the County Commission of Veterans Affairs fund to be used for national training and related expenses for county veteran service officers and appropriate staff.

This amount is currently \$10,000 per county. The request is to raise the amount to \$13,000.

Veterans Property Tax Exemption. The American Legion Department of Iowa supports an increase to the veterans' property tax exemption. This benefit has existed since 1886 and is currently

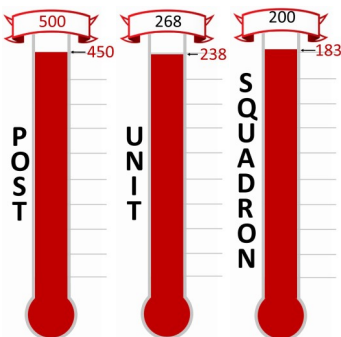
\$1,852. We request raising the amount to \$5,000.

Military Home Ownership Assistance Program. This program is one of the most attractive benefits within Home Base Iowa's arsenal aimed at the recruitment of out of state veterans. Currently there is a backlog of applicants. We request an appropriation of \$5,000,000 to clear the backlog.

Veterans' Treatment Courts
 The American Legion urges the State of Iowa to establish and expand Veterans Treatment Courts. Veteran Treatment Courts are hybrid Drug Courts and Mental Health Courts. Grouping justice-involved veterans into a specific court docket expedites access to veteran-specific resources, benefits and treatment earned through military service and provides for treatment as opposed to incarceration.

THE POST MEETING HAS BEEN CHANGED TO FEBRUARY 3 DUE TO MIDWINTER CONFERENCE

Entering the Home Stretch on Membership



Those thermometers keep rising, thanks to those members that have renewed since January 1.

If this was a horse race, we would be rounding the fourth turn and entering the home stretch at this time of year. Now is the time to finish the job.

If you have not renewed, why not? You have received this newsletter all year and have read what the Legion family does. The story above talks about what was done just this

month to lobby our state legislators on benefits.

Do you want to stay a member and continue to help us serve Ames and Iowa and the country supporting veterans and doing community service or would you rather drop out. Know that we would miss you if you do.

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Post Commander Jay's Comments

What a difference a year makes. . .sort of. In last years February newsletter, Past Commander Jennifer was reporting of the impact of Covid on Post finances. Well, Covid is still around in the latest variant and the financial impact still exists. While we have been able to restart Bingo, and begin to hold our Steak Nights, and other fund-raising activities, the specter of Covid still hangs over us and has worked to keep participation down.

Thanks to Jodi and her team of volunteers, they have been able to keep our Wednesday curbside meals going and we're seeing a bit of an uptick on the number of people coming into the Post to eat. Your continued support of the

Wednesday night meals and the various fundraisers at the Post is greatly appreciated, and frankly, needed.

On January 1 we held a Chili Cook-Off at the Post and I want to thank all those who participated, all the entries were delicious and I want to thank those that voted for my entry (#7 if you didn't know) which allowed me to take second place.

We ended up moving Steak Night a week because the first Saturday was New Years Day. We also combined it with the Early Bird dinner, giving those who had paid their dues up to and including that night a \$2.00 discount. While attendance was good, it certainly wasn't overwhelming, hopefully a return

to New York Strip steaks will entice additional folks to come out or order to go.

On January 19th I had the opportunity to take part in Veteran's Legislative Day at the State Capitol. You can read more about it in the article here in the newsletter. It was a great experience and I am glad I had the opportunity to attend.

Please continue to support the Post in any way you can. One big way is to renew your membership if you haven't already done so. As you can see, we still need 50 members to reach our goal of 500. If you have not renewed, please do that now.

Take care and stay safe. Happy Valentines Day!

Unit President Rachel's Comments

Happy February! It's hard to believe that we are already into the 2nd month of a new year! With it being the shortest month, it may also be one of my shortest writings. As I am writing this, it is one of the coldest days of winter. I am looking for warmer days ahead.

Last month Unit members gathered together and help make plan. This is used to crochet sleeping mats for homeless veterans.

Last month one of our Junior members competed in the Postal match for Junior

Shooting Sports. It's been fun to see the kids involved with this event grow and improve.

The Unit will be hosting February's steak dinner. Take the night off from cooking and let us cook for you!

Remember that the Mid-Winter conference will be held February 11-13 at the Airport Holiday Inn in Des Moines. This is a good way to meet other Legion Family members from across the state.

We plan once again to have a Legion Family Fun Day. This will be February 26th 10-1 pm and will be open to the public. There will be activities for all ages related to the American Legion Family.

Our membership continues to grow and we are getting ever so closer to our goal. Remember, if you haven't paid for 2022 to please do so as soon as possible. Stay safe and stay warm!

Squadron Commander Doug's Comments

Greetings Fellow Squadron Mates –

Let me start by apologizing for missing the January Meeting. I had planned on being back in Ames from the holidays in time for the meeting but was unavoidably delayed so that I could help support my daughter and her family through some medical issues.

Since it is February, that means that it is time for the annual Department of Iowa Mid-Winter Conference in Des Moines. If you haven't attended Mid-Winter in the past, I strongly recommend that you consider attending this

year's event at the Des Moines Airport Holiday Inn and Conference Center from the 11th to the 13th.

It is a short drive and the Joint Session on Friday Night is always informative with many great guest speakers representing the national Legion Family. The different workshops on Saturday are also informative or you can attend the Department Oratorical Contest on Sunday morning. If you have the time, I would encourage you to attend one of the sessions and get some insight into what the Sons are doing at the state and national level to support our veter-

ans and our youth.

If you haven't been to the Post lately, stop on down and join the Legion Family at one of the several events that are planned throughout the month. Check out the Post's monthly calendar of events and join us. Of course there is always the monthly Squadron Meeting too - we would love to have you join us at a meeting and share your thoughts and perspective on what the Squadron can do to help increase our support to the Legion Family and community.

I hope to see you at the Post!

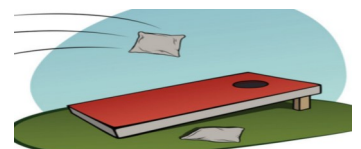


FAMILY FUN DAY FEBRUARY 26 10:00 AM—1:00 PM



Fun, Fellowship and Food
Fun Activities for All Ages

Light Lunch Available for Purchase



Clubroom News

Happy Valentine's to all!! I feel like these first few weeks of January have just flown by. We are definitely in the heart of winter with all this snow and freezing cold temperatures.

The clubroom is a great place to come warm up, visit with friends and watch your favorite sporting events. We are continuing our Wednesday meals. With this cold weather if you are unable to get out to pick up a meal but would like one, give me a call and we can have one delivered to you (if you live in Ames). Check our Facebook page and weekly updates for the full menus.



Super Bowl Madness- Join us Sunday, February 13 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!

Friday, February 18-Tenderloin Basket Night 5-6:30pm. Join us for this Iowa classic. Breaded tenderloin and fries with all your favorite toppings for just \$7.

Sunday, February 20-Daytona 500 party. Join us for NASCAR's biggest race. Bring a munchie to share and get in on the fun.



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 places. 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 25th, 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 benefit the Building Repairs Fund.

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, Russ and Vicki Belz, Julie Rinard, Colten Christensen, Rodger VanVoorhis.

Legion Family Youth Programs

This is the time of the year when the Legion family youth programs have really kicked into gear. The Ames Legion family is no exception.



The selection committees for delegates to Boys and Girls State are working hard to find quality candidates. Candidates must be currently in their junior year of high school and must have a good academic record and leadership and community service awareness.

Members of the Legion family can nominate candidates by submitting the candidates name and contact information to Ameslegionpost37@gmail.com. Indicate Boys or Girls State in the email.



On January 23, the Ames JSSP club fired their targets for the National Postal match. The club has nine members that competed. Targets will be sent

to National to be scored. We will learn those scores later. At the same time, two more rifles are being ordered for the club to bring them up to a total of five compressed air rifles.



Plans are being made for the 2022 baseball season. We will be sponsoring a team from Ames High and are discussing a second team from Gilbert High school. Game schedules will be set later this spring.



Our Post did not have a contestant in the Oratorical contest this year but members of the Ames Legion family have been assisting with District and Department contests.

None of these programs could happen without dedicated volunteers, of which we never have enough. If you enjoy working with young people and helping them grow and advance, contact us at Ameslegionpost37@gmail.com and give us your name. We can use you!

Legion Riders



Ok, enough... where's this groundhog at, we need to make a deal before he comes strolling out into the Pennsylvania sunshine.

Seriously though, we are in the midst of the first big cold snap, after the first big snowfall of the season, and I'm typing the February Newsletter article. Not too bad I think. Spring will come, I just looked at the calendar and it's still on there for 2022.

That said, the Riders would like to thank everyone that took advantage of the Wreath matching in January, and our pancake breakfast to benefit WAA. We are nearly 1/3 of the way to our goal already. Wreath pickup was delayed because of the weather, but we will reschedule it soon.

The Legion's Mid-winter conference is almost upon us and we will have some exciting news regarding the Legion Riders and the Legacy Run this year. We are accepting nominations now for supporting members. You need only be a current member of any of the Legion families. You do not need to own a motorcycle or ride. If you would like more information reach out to an Ames Rider, or attend the Feb 3rd meeting at the post. It begins at 630pm..

As always, ride safe.

Cliff, Riders Director

Property Tax Exemption

The American Legion joined with the Iowa Commission on Veterans Affairs and the other veterans service organizations to lobby for an increase in the property tax exemption that is available to veterans.

Military veterans who (1) served on active duty and were honorably discharged or (2) members of reserve forces or Iowa National Guard who served at least 20 years qualify for this exemption. The exempted amount is small, \$1,852, but every dollar counts.

Application must be made with the assessors office to receive the exemption. Verification of service in the form of a DD-214 or other discharge paper showing qualifying service must accompany the application. Having that discharge recorded at the county recorders office will ensure that it can always be obtained to show service and can be of great help to your family later.


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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>
YOUTH AIR RIFLE 1-3 AT IZAAK WALTON		1 TOASTED CHEESE & SOUP AUXILIARY REGULAR 6:30	2 WINESDAY WEDNESDAY CURBSIDE MEAL CHICKEN STRIPS	3 DOLLAR DOG DAY OPERATIONS COMMITTEE 6:00 LEGION REGULAR 7:00	4 FIREBALL FRIDAY MUNCHIES NIGHT	5 STEAK DINNER 5:00—7:00
6 BINGO	7 LEGION RIDERS 6:30	8 TOASTED CHEESE & SOUP SAL REGULAR 6:30	9 WINESDAY WEDNESDAY CURBSIDE MEAL HAM BALLS	10 DOLLAR DOG DAY	11 FIREBALL FRIDAY MUNCHIES NIGHT	12 MIDWINTER CONFERENCE
13 SUPER BOWL PARTY MIDWINTER & ORATORICAL BINGO	14 VALENTINE'S DAY	15 TOASTED CHEESE & SOUP	16 WINESDAY WEDNESDAY CURBSIDE MEAL PORK CHOPS	17 DOLLAR DOG DAY SOCIAL COMMITTEE 6:00	18 FIREBALL FRIDAY TENDERLOIN BASKET 5-6:30	19 PAST PRESIDENT'S PARLEY 10:00
20 DAYTONA 500 PARTY BINGO	21 VFW POST MEETING 7:00	22 TOASTED CHEESE & SOUP 40&8	23 WINESDAY WEDNESDAY CURBSIDE MEAL LASAGNA	24 DOLLAR DOG DAY	25 FIREBALL FRIDAY SOUP CONTEST	26 FAMILY FUN DAY 10:00-1:00
27 BINGO	28	 Find us on Facebook at American Legion Family of Ames, IA Post 37				