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Ames Legion Family In Action

THOUGHTS ON FINDING THE FUTURE

Commander Sisco: This month I'm using my space to bring you the views of a junior member of our Post. This was initially written for and delivered to the Auxiliary. I thought the subject matter applied equally across the Legion Family and asked that it be sent to all of the Legion family.

I would like to address a problem I noticed in our American Legion family. I was asked to include it within the newsletter so it reaches more people.

Throughout my time being an American Legion Auxiliary Junior member, I have noticed a decline in member involvement. I would like to note that I am not saying the American Legion, Auxiliary, Sons, and Riders are more important than your personal life, my point is that members need to do more than go to meetings, or not come to one at all.

During Mid-Winter and Department conventions, you hear a lot about the membership. Specifically, the Auxiliary has a goal of 100% plus one. I feel that numbers of membership are stressed too much. You can't just have the numbers to be a successful organization. You need the people. Being an active member is extremely important for our organization to grow. The more volunteers we have for an event such as laying wreaths on veteran's

graves, or the Fourth of July Parade, the more people will see our organization and realize its members are committed to it.

This will attract more people to our organization's important cause, helping our veterans. I have also noticed leadership for certain programs has fallen on certain members. They may have volunteered for these positions, but they will not be able to lead forever. What happens when these wonderful people are unable to perform these duties? We tend to rely on people so much that when they cannot do it anymore, we do not know how to take their place.

I feel our members need to step up and volunteer for more events and programs to become more familiar with how to lead in case of a need. I recently attended the National Northwestern Division Junior Meeting on April 2, 2022. There, we learned about leadership. We learned a leader is someone who will take charge

if something is not going as well, invite someone in, or go talk to someone sitting alone. They point out a problem and come up with a solution of how to fix it, they are reliable.

A leader is not necessarily the person running a meeting or event. Everyone is capable of being a leader. However, there are some that could be more active and practice their leadership skills. You could practice by taking over a program, adding ideas to a meeting, or creating a display to help remember an event to place in the bar. Contributing to this organization's cause is one of the best things members can do.

I would like to challenge every member to come to the next meeting of what they are a part of. This is to show what our organization is about and bring in more involvement. I also encourage you to volunteer for something you have never or haven't in a while volunteered

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MEMORIAL DAY EVENTS

The Ames Patriotic Council has planned the Memorial Day ceremony. The events will start with the parade to the cemetery. Details are still being finalized for the parade. Watch the weekly update and publicity here in Ames for those details.

Matt Henry, a graduate student at ISU will present the address at the cemetery. That ceremony

will start at 11:00 and will include patriotic music and laying of wreaths at the Veterans Memorial by the civic organizations. The Post honor guard will present a rifle salute and taps will be played.

Plan to attend the ceremony. If weather is a problem, the ceremony will be held at the Ames City Hall Auditorium.

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Challenge for Future (continued)

for such as BINGO, helping with the bake sale, or Steak Dinner.

Another problem I would like to address is youth programs such as Junior Shooting Sports, which I am a part of and have a direct experience with this problem. Lots of leadership for this program has fallen on certain legionnaires. Many members may know what Junior Shooting Sports is but did not want to get involved. I am encouraging you to get involved with the youth, we are the future of this nation and organization.

I am asking for you to be more aware of the program and show support, specifically at competitions. The team competed in the Department match on March 19 this year. I am very happy with the

turnout and support of the members there. However, I see our opportunities growing with more support from the people who are not able to be there as well as those attending.

To sum up what I have written, I feel it is important for every member of this wonderful organization to take part in our organization's cause. Volunteering for BINGO, Steak Dinners, and fundraisers is one way you can be involved. Contributing to meetings, coming up with ideas and solutions, and showing your support for programs is the best way you can help our programs grow and reach out to more people.

It has always made me sad when people neglect to help out with this organi-

zation's growth. This is a group I want to continue being a member of. It is extremely important to me to help veterans and others in our community.

Please take into account all that I have to say, I am relying on you to help us grow. Remember my challenges, come to the next meeting, volunteer, and support more than just saying "I support them." I hope my point has been made clear and I hope this will open a new door and make a difference in our Legion Family. If you have any questions, please ask. I will answer them when I am able

Respectfully, Junior member Sadie Breyfogle.

Unit President Rachel's Comments

"In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below."

This is the start of a beautiful poem by John McCrae that first appeared in an English magazine in December 1915. Since then, it has become to symbolize the sacrifices of those who served in World War I. It sprung up on the battlefields of France from the debris that was left there during the Great War. It was later adopted as the flower of the American Legion Auxiliary. You will find this little red flower being distributed the weekend before Memorial Day. National Poppy Day is May 27th. We are looking for Legion Family members to help with poppy distribution on Friday & Saturday. If you are available to help, please let the Unit know.

While sitting here writing this article, I am reminded by a pop-up on social media that it is National Volunteer Week. Many organizations, such as the American Legion Family, rely greatly on volunteers. This has also been a common theme throughout this year from the leaders of the Ames Legion Family. With the pandemic slowing, we are starting to do more events and programs and are in need of more volunteers. We have a very active Legion Family, however, a lot of the volunteering often falls on the shoulders of only a few. It was once asked, what would happen if "Jack" or "Jill" were no longer able to volunteer? Would this program go away? Who can step up? Can that person be you? Do you have a high school student that is in need of silver cord hours or have a scout that is in need of volunteer hours for their next rank advancement? We could use their

help, too!

May 7th is our last steak dinner. We are still looking for a couple people to help either in the kitchen or upstairs. Feel the need to help others? We'll gladly fulfill that need. Have you ever been to a steak dinner? If not, why not leave the cooking to us?

One of our Junior members challenged each member of the Unit to invite/bring a member who hasn't been to a meeting in a while or bring an eligible person to join our May unit meeting on May 3rd.

Also, on May 3rd we will start our monthly meeting with a Joint Memorial Service with the Post and the Squadron. On this day we will remember those from the Ames Legion family that have passed this past year. Please come and help remember those who have gone to Post Everlasting.

Squadron Commander Doug's Comments

*"We cherish too, the Poppy red
That grows on fields where valor led
It seems to signal to the skies
That blood of heroes never dies."*

This verse, from the poem "On Flanders Fields", written by Canadian doctor John McCrae (yes, a distant, distant relative) during World War I, helps to symbolize the month of May as one of remembrance as we pay tribute to those men and women who died while serving our great nation in the Armed Forces, and in recent years our first responders.

There is always a fear that the sacrific-

es made by our forefathers in preserving our freedoms and safety will be forgotten. We, as Sons, continue to pledge ourselves to ensure that those sacrifices are not forgotten and that we will continue to honor the memories of our veteran forefathers. As May begins, let us renew our commitment to this vital and solemn endeavor.

The April Biscuits & Gravy Breakfast was a huge success and we thank the Ames Legion Family and community for their generous support.

May also reminds us that we need to identify and recruit new Squadron Offic-

ers. The vitality of any organization relies on new ideas and new leaders to help move the organization forward. Your participation as a Squadron Officer or Executive Board member will help continue to shape our group as we embark on a new year to move forward with ideas and programs that will help our community grow and thrive. It only takes four or five hours a month to help make a big difference in the effectiveness of our Squadron and the Post Family. If you want to help make a difference, e-mail me at dmac-crea@gmail.com or give me a call at 515-450-0773.

Clubroom News

Clubroom News

Happy May! The weather will "hopefully" start getting a little nicer out (it is currently snowing out while I write this). We are all ready for some sunshine and a little less wind. We would love to see you in the clubroom. We have lots going on each week. Join us for one of our meals and/or just some great conversations with friends.

Here are our Wednesday Meals for May:

May 4-Chicken Enchilada's and Beef Tostada's

May 11-Chicken Fried Steak

May 18-Burger Night

May 25-Grilled Pork Chop

Check our weekly emails and Facebook for full menu each week. Meals are still

available for curbside pickup and dine in. If you would like to ensure you get something please call ahead and place your order. It really helps me plan how much food to make. Thanks for your continued support!!

Check out our awesome daily specials:

Taco Tuesday's-Enjoy a walking taco for just \$4 with all your favorite toppings.

Winesday Wednesday-try one of our many fine wines, whether you like a dry red or a sweet white or somewhere in between we have a wine for you. Just \$3 a glass!

Thursday's-Enjoy \$2 hotdogs, your choice of plain, Jalapeno or Cheddar sausage. Wash them down with \$2 Domestic bottles.

Legion Riders

May is the traditional kickoff to the riding season and it's finally time. April has been busy putting the finishing touches on the 6th District Legacy Ride planned for June 11th, the planning of the USS Iowa ride, and our two Ames chapter rides.

First, this month on May 7 we will again be leading one of the many rides for the Sleeping Angels Foundation. It is the mission of the Sleeping Angels Foundation Members to assist Iowa families that endure the loss of an infant child. This is a cause we've supported for many years, and was founded in 2011 by Joey Droste of Boone after the loss of their daughter Maggie.

The objective is to make varying monetary donations to families, depending on the individual family's needs. I.e. headstone, funeral costs, vacation to get away, child care for other children affected, grief counseling, etc. Since no one's situation is the same, the director and officers of the Sleeping Angels Foundation evaluate requests on a case by case basis and determine what would help the family the most. If you or anyone you know could benefit, or you would like to donate to their cause, please contact one of our members.

June 4th is the 3rd Annual Ride to the Rock. Started as a suggestion from one of our members, each year on the Saturday after Memorial Day, your Legion Riders meet up and ride out to the original Freedom Rock in Menlo, IA at 1pm. We openly invite other Chapters in the state to come out and meet up with us. Each year this event has grown both in number of Riders and Chapters attend-

ing, and in interest. Feel free to join us, we will meet at the Ames post around 9:30am and leave at 10am.

A couple other functions of note as well. The Nation of Patriots hog roast is at Zylstra Harley Davidson in Ames on May 21st, Randy Johns is an Ames Rider and has planned a full day of food and music for all. The Cumming Riders Chapter has also planned the Pennies for Heroes day at Van Meter Cemetery. On May 29th Riders will gather and place pennies on each grave out of respect for those that have come before us. This is open to any Legion family member if you'd like to come out.

The Riders Wreath Across America Committee would like to say thank you to everyone that brought cans and bottles for donation. They will be hosting one per month through the summer on the 3rd Saturday from 9-11 am. Currently they are closing in on the 40% mark for 2022 and none of this could be done without your help.

The summer is sure filling up fast, I'll close with the May ALR dinner ride dates, May 8th we will ride to a favorite destination, Pickles in Kamrar, and on May 22 we will ride to Copperhead in Stratford. We leave from the back parking lot of the post at 430pm on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of every month.

That's all for now, as always ride safe, and ride often.

Cliff B.

Riders Director



Thanks to all that volunteered to help make our Curbside, Fish Fry and Tenderloin night's a great success!! We could not do them without all the help. John Schomaker, Lynn Sellmeyer, John Sellmeyer, Chris Duncan, Dean Schomaker, Colten Christensen, Bill Donovan, Addison Donovan, Ken Woodley, Sandy Deacon, Paul Madsen, Megan McEnany, Maria McEnany, Julie Rinard, Tom Fowler, Russ and Vicki Belz.

Bylaws Change

Article II, Section 3 of the current Bylaws of the Ames Post reads "Fifteen members in good standing of the Post shall be necessary to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business."

At the April Post meeting, Resolution 01-2022 was presented and approved to change that quorum from fifteen to nine. In order for that change to go into effect, the proposed change must be approved at two consecutive post meetings and that each member of the post must be notified of the proposed change prior to final consideration.

This issue of the newsletter provides that notification to each member. The second vote will take place at the May post meeting.

Main Street Flags

The flags in the downtown area will be put up at 7AM on May 27 and be retrieved at 5PM on May 30. This is always an effort where extra help is very much appreciated.

Memorial Service

The Legion Family will gather at the Unit meeting on May 3 in memory of those members of the Post, Unit and Squadron that have left us in the past year.

The Post in particular will be mourning the loss of three Past Commanders, Lee McMillen, Floyd Christofferson and Howard McPhail.


Join us at 6:30 to help keep alive the memory of those that we have lost.

AMERICAN LEGION POST NO. 37
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US POSTAGE
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MAY

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
1 YOUTH AIR RIFLE 1-3 AT IZAAK WALTON BINGO	2 LEGION RIDERS 6:30	3 TACO NIGHT \$4 LEGION FAMILY MEMORIAL AUXILIARY REGULAR 6:30	4 WINESDAY WEDNESDAY CURBSIDE MEAL TEX-MEX	5 DOG NIGHT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE 6:00	6 FIREBALL FRIDAY MUNCHIES NIGHT	7 STEAK DINNER 5:00—7:00
8 BINGO	9	10 TACO NIGHT \$4 SAL REGULAR 6:30	11 WINESDAY WEDNESDAY CURBSIDE MEAL CHICKEN FRIED STEAK	12 DOG NIGHT LEGION REGULAR 7:00	13 FIREBALL FRIDAY MUNCHIES NIGHT	14
15 BINGO	16 VFW POST MEETING 7:00	17 TACO NIGHT \$4	18 WINESDAY WEDNESDAY CURBSIDE MEAL BURGER NIGHT	19 DOG NIGHT SOCIAL COMMITTEE 6:00	20 FIREBALL FRIDAY MUNCHIES NIGHT	21 PAST PRESIDENT'S PARLEY 10:00
22 BINGO	23	24 TACO NIGHT \$4 40&8	25 WINESDAY WEDNESDAY CURBSIDE MEAL GRILLED PORK CHOP	26 DOG NIGHT	27 FIREBALL FRIDAY POPPY DISTRIBUTION MUNCHIES NIGHT	28
29 BINGO	30 MEMORIAL DAY	31 TACO NIGHT \$4		Find us on Facebook at American Legion Family of Ames, IA Post 37		