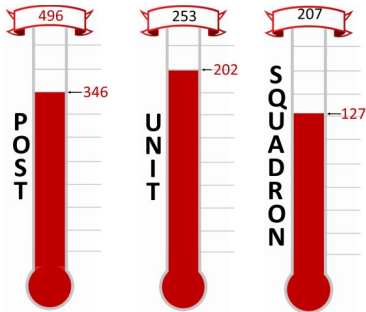


# Ames Legion Family In Action

## Red Lines Go Up



Membership continues to go up with the Unit jumping into the lead.

Don't forget that membership becomes delinquent at the end of December. Make sure that you have renewed before then.

For the Legionnaires, every Iowa member that is paid for 2023 by December 31 will be entered into a drawing with eight \$250 winners. If that winner is from the Sixth District, there will be an additional \$250. Don't wait until the last minute. Make sure you are entered by paying your dues now!

## Fundraising 50/50 Raffles

The Ames Legion family is beginning a monthly 50/50 raffle to help raise funds for specific projects and programs. Tickets will be sold for \$1 each or 6 for \$5.



Tickets will be sold at the clubroom by the bartenders or by a representative during busy times.

A new raffle will begin the first day of each month with the winner drawn at close of business on the last day of the month. The winner will receive half the sales money with the other half going to that month's project.

The month's project will be posted on whiteboards in the post with the current prize amount also posted. The prize amount will be updated each day.

Each month a new project will be chosen in the following order; Operations, Post, Unit, Squadron, Riders, with that rotation to continue.

The first month's project will be replacement of the sprinkler system in the walk-in-cooler. That sprinkler application has a 10 year lifetime. Tickets will be available on December 1.



We hope you will participate in this new fundraiser. We want everyone to benefit and we want you all to know what the month's project will be. You will be notified by phone if you win and we will keep a running list of projects and the amount raised toward each. Each newsletter will also list the previous month's prize amount

## Wreaths Across Ames Municipal Cemetery



The Ames Legion Riders will lead the effort on December 17 to place a wreath on every very veteran's grave in the Ames Municipal Cemetery. That will require 1,800 wreaths to make that happen. As of this

writing, that total stands 262 short with the last push for donations happening.

Placing of the wreaths will happen beginning at 11AM on December 17. Volunteers are needed to help with that work. Turn-out last year was outstanding. We hope that will happen again this year.

Bundle up and come to the cemetery. The wreaths make the cemetery just as beautiful as flowers on Memorial Day.

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## Post Commander Jay's Comments

Hello everyone, here we are bringing another year to a close, my how time flies. I'd like to publicly thank Doug MacCrea, and Stan Elliott, for handling the November Legion meeting, and for giving the welcoming remarks at the Ames Veterans Day Program respectively, while Barb and I were off celebrating our anniversary.

December will be a fairly active month at the Post, we have Steak Night on December 3, hosted by the Legion. Volunteers are always welcome, feel free to contact me if you'd like to volunteer. December 10 brings the SAL Biscuits and Gravy breakfast and the Auxiliary's Annual Cookie Fair. December 17 will see the Riders hosting Wreaths Across America at Ames Municipal Cemetery, volunteers are welcome to help place wreaths on the over 1800

Veteran's graves. December will also see the start of our monthly 50/50 raffles which will benefit various programs of the Legion Family and Operations. The specific program or project for a given month will be posted on white boards in the club room.

As I write this article, we have yet to hold the Academic Awards Presentation at Ames High School. That will take place on November 29<sup>th</sup>. This year we have the opportunity to recognize 499 Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors for their academic achievements. Well done to all those receiving awards.

I said this last year, and I'll say it again, in 2023 we can, and would certainly like to, do more. But to do that we need your help. Not just in supporting the various activities, but by volunteering your time and talents to help put them

on. So, stay tuned for your opportunity to support your American Legion Post.

Please consider sponsoring a WWII or Korean War veteran who has not yet paid their dues. What a great way to show these veterans how important they and their service are to all of us. If you would like to be a sponsor, email [amespost37membership@gmail.com](mailto:amespost37membership@gmail.com)! **If you haven't paid your dues yet the December 31<sup>st</sup> deadline is fast approaching!**

In closing, I want to thank you for your support during this year and wish all of you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year! If you're travelling, please be safe. We want to see everyone back in 2023.

Looking forward to an even better 2023!

## Unit President Rachel's Comments

Happy Holidays to my American Legion Family! I hope this newsletter finds you and your family well. We've had a busy month. We participated in the Downtown Trick or Treat event just before Halloween. Since Ames schools were not in session that day, nearly 700 children participated in this event. Thank you to those who helped and got creative that way and handing out treats. With November came Veterans Day and the Veteran Supermarket at the Plex. Thank you to those involved in the planning and manning these events to honor and help our veterans. By the end of November, we will have honored 499 Ames High students in grades 10-12 in giving them their Academic Award, a program that the Ames Legion Family has been a part of for 36 years.

This month my focus is going to be on National Security. This program maintains and promotes a strong national defense by strengthening and supporting military service members, their families and communities. One may ask, how can we do this if we are not in the military or no longer serving? There are several ways that you can help support our current service members, their families and the community. Here's a couple ways one can help: 1) participate in a local blood drive or visit a local blood donation center to donate blood. 2) Take First Aid or CPR or even arrange for one of these trainings to take place. 3) Wear RED (Remember Everyone Deployed) Fridays. 4) Show patriotic support and promote morale for those families that may have a loved one de-

ployed. Are you ready for a natural disaster? The recent snows remind one that weather is a large player when it comes to disasters. Do you have what you need in your vehicle, should you be caught in the snow? Such items would include (but not limited to) ice scraper and/or snow brush, snow shovel, extra blankets and clothes, food items (granola bars come to mind), water, LED flashlights, jumper cables, sand/cat litter and hand/foot warmers.

Lastly the Unit is holding it's annual Cookie Fair on December 10th. This is the same time as the SAL Biscuits and Gravy breakfast. For \$10 you get a box to fill with cookies of all types. Let us help in your holiday baking!

Stay safe and stay warm!

## Squadron Commander Doug's Comments

Seasons Greetings!

Winter has arrived and we are all starting to get into the holiday spirit.

December brings with it many opportunities to spend time with family and friends and reflect on what 2022 brought into our lives and to start thinking ahead to the New Year and the possibilities it holds for us. The Post Family is offering several great opportunities to gather and share in the joy of the season. Check out the Post calendar for those events.

As we celebrate this holiday season, please be mindful of those serving our country and our community away from family and friends and give thanks that

we have young men and women around us who are willing to volunteer and answer the call to service.

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. The Squadron 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!

With just a month left until the start of the New Year we still have a fair number of Squadron members who have not yet renewed their membership. Your continued membership is not only valued, it makes difference in so many ways - from funding scholarships to providing emergency financial loans and disaster relief to veterans and families in need, as well as sponsoring

Continued on Facing Page

## Legion Riders

This last month saw some really nice days to get out, we rode, we raked leaves, we rode some more, and then Mother Nature said enough of that. Boom, winter is here. Some of us don't fully winterize our bikes and hope for a chance to keep riding when we can, some others add a little fuel treatment, plug in the trickle charger and settle in by the fire until spring.

Not your Riders though, we are busy preparing for Wreath Day 2023 on December 17th. We're ahead of last year on wreath count with 1505 so far but the fact that the number of wreaths needed will always be increasing every year keeps us grounded. We have extended invitations to the City and to the Department staff in Des Moines, and are looking forward to the big day. If you'd like to come volunteer for wreath placement, it is open to the whole community. meet us at 11 am at the Ames Cemetery 9th Street entrance where we will start of the program, and we should be concluded with everything by 1pm. We have been asked if we will be having another can day to benefit WAA and yes we will. In the meantime if you let us know we can pick them up.

We thank all of you for your support, because without all of you this project would never be completed every year.

The Riders elections will be at the December meeting, so with our annual chili feed hosted by our own Bill Couser we will elect the same officers for 2023. Our Road Captains are looking to change the format next year with some longer distance rides, Dinner and Brunch Rides, and of course fun rides. We've also got some ideas for post activities and I think 2023 will be a great time. It's the Riders 30th birthday next year, so maybe we'll throw a party.

Until then Ride safe if you do ride, and prepare for bad weather now so you're ready.

Cliff B.

ALR Director.

### Squadron Comments (continued)

programs that help nurture our future generation. Your membership in the SAL makes a difference – every day. Please take a moment now, before the rush of the holidays are really upon us, and renew your membership.

In closing, my family and I extend our warmest wishes to the entire Post 37 Family for a most joyous holiday with family and friends. Happy Holidays!

## Clubroom News

Season's Greetings!! We hope that everyone enjoyed a safe and Happy Thanksgiving. We have lots of activities going on around the Post this month. We hope you are able to join us for some of our activities. The clubroom will be open from 12-6pm on Christmas Eve and will be closed on Christmas Day. Our clubroom hours will remain the same but if Iowa State has an earlier basketball game we will open early for you to come watch with us. We are able to stream ESPN+ so you can come watch at the Post if you don't get that at home.

Our clubroom is in need of a few repairs and updating to our sprinkler system. We will be running a 50/50 raffle the entire month of December to help raise money for these much needed repairs. Please buy some tickets if you are able. Every little bit helps.

Curbside Meals: Call Clubroom, 232-9870, anytime after 2pm for pickup between 5-6:30pm

**Wed. Dec 7-Meatloaf**

**Wed. Dec 14-Ham Dinner**

**Wed. Dec 21-Burger Night**

**Wed. Dec 28-Pork Loin**

Check our Weekly Update and our Facebook page for additional items and more info.

### Friday, Dec.9-Breaded Tenderloin Basket Night 5-7pm

We will be having a Clubroom Christmas Party on Friday, Dec 16 starting at 5:30pm. Wear your favorite ugly Christmas sweater, bring a snack to share and enjoy some Christmas cheer with friends!

**December 24<sup>th</sup>** 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 note that we will be closed on Christmas Day.

The clubroom will be having our weekly meat raffle again this December. Stop by for a chance to win one of four fabulous weekly prizes. Also save the date, we will be having our Annual Chili cook off of New Year's Day so get your chili recipes ready!!

**THANK YOU** Kudos to all that help keep things running in the Clubroom and make it so we are able to have some great events. Russ and Vicki Belz, Julie Rinard, Mike and Sandy Deacon, Tom Fowler, Bill Donovan, Ken Woodley, Colten Christiansen, Chris Duncan, Lynn and John Sellmeyer.



## Academic Awards Set New Record



A new record for Academic awards was set at Ames High School on November 29. That evening 499 Academic Letters were presented to Ames High students.

That increase came about due to extension of the eligibility to members of the sophomore class. Previously only juniors and seniors had been eligible.

Beginning with this year, one other change was made. Previously the students to be recognized needed a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.5 or above. Starting this year, it is required that the student carry a GPA of 3.5 through the previous year. That requires that students not coast and allow their GPA to drop as graduation gets closer.

Along with the change in requirements,

it was necessary to move the awards convocation into the gymnasium to be able to accommodate the crowd. The sophomores were especially excited since they were the first sophomore class to be included. We were happy to see as many parents, family members and friends as we did students.

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# DECEMBER

<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 <b>American Legion Family of Ames, IA Post</b>		<b>American Legion Family of Ames, IA Post</b>	1 DOG NIGHT  OPERATIONS COMMITTEE 6:00	2 FIREBALL FRIDAY  MUNCHIES NIGHT	3 STEAK DINNER 5:00—7:00
4 BINGO	5 LEGION RIDERS 6:30	6 TOASTED CHEESE & SOUP  AUXILIARY REGULAR 6:30	7 WINESDAY WEDNESDAY  CURBSIDE MEAL MEATLOAF	8 DOG NIGHT  LEGION REGULAR 7:00	9 FIREBALL FRIDAY  TENDERLOIN BASKET 5-7	10 BISCUITS & GRAVY BKFST WITH COOKIE FAIR
11 BINGO	12	13 TOASTED CHEESE & SOUP  SAL REGULAR 6:30	14 WINESDAY WEDNESDAY  CURBSIDE MEAL HAM DINNER	15 DOG NIGHT  SOCIAL COMMITTEE 6:00	16 FIREBALL FRIDAY  UGLY SWEATER CHRISTMAS PARTY 5:30	17 WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA 11:00
18 BINGO	19 VFW POST MEETING 7:00	20 TOASTED CHEESE & SOUP	21 WINESDAY WEDNESDAY  CURBSIDE MEAL BURGER NIGHT	22 DOG NIGHT  40&8	23 FIREBALL FRIDAY  MUNCHIES NIGHT	24 CHRISTMAS EVE CLUBROOM OPEN 12-6
25 CHRISTMAS DAY CLUBROOM CLOSED	26	27 TOASTED CHEESE & SOUP	28 WINESDAY WEDNESDAY  CURBSIDE MEAL PORK LOIN	29 DOG NIGHT	30 FIREBALL FRIDAY  MUNCHIES NIGHT	31