



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

Vol XLII, No 11

June 2023

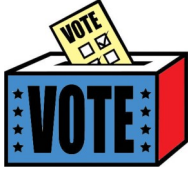
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Ames Legion Family In Action

Officer Nominations Received, Elections at June Meetings



Nominating committee reports for the Post, Unit and Squadron were submitted at May meetings. Those reports are listed below. There are vacancies in all three of the reports. Please think about whether you can fill one of those vacancies. If you want more information before you decide, contact the leader of your Legion family organization. They can be reached by email at legionpost37newsletter@gmail.com.

Anyone who wants to make a contribution to The American Legion family or the quality of life in Ames cannot find a better way to do that. Boys and Girls State, Academic Letters, service to veterans, all the programs you have read about in this newsletter over the last year, here is the way for you to contribute and make a difference.

Post #37

Commander; Jay Sisco, **1st Vice Cmdr;** Dave Rehbein, **2nd Vice Cmdr;** Open
Adjutant; Doug MacCrea, **Finance Officer;** Randy Freel, **Sgt-At-Arms;** Derek Kraayenbrink
Chaplain; Ricky Thompson, **Service Officer;** Bob Bellinghausen, **Historian;** Jennifer Rehbein
Executive Board; Randy Breyfogle, Keven Brace, John Baldwin, Frank Andrew

Unit #37

President; Jamie Barker, **1st Vice President;** Open, **2nd Vice President;** Jodi Mann
Secretary; Open, **Treasurer;** Ann Rehbein, **Chaplain;** Keri Guy, **Historian;** Open
Sgt-at-Arms; Open, **Executive Board;** Kathy MacCrea, Sandy Deacon, Sharon Bellinghausen, Jan Schmidt, Marilyn Nervig

Squadron #37

Commander; Cort Pahl, **1st Vice Cmdr;** Russ Belz, **2nd Vice Cmdr;** Keven Brace
Adjutant; Mike Deacon, **Finance Officer;** Randy Freel, **Chaplain;** Roger Elliott
Sgt-at-Arms; David Senchina, **Historian;** Open
Executive Board; Steve Malmquist, Bob Bellinghausen, Jay Sisco

Legion Car Wins Indy Grand Prix Race

The American Legion kicked off May in Indianapolis with a win in the GMR Grand Prix. Alex Palou drove the Legion car to that win and really pulled off a great warm up for the Indianapolis 500 on Sunday May 28.

Palou not only won the race, he won it in dominating fashion, leading #2 finisher O'Ward by almost 17 seconds. Palou's win also propelled him into first place in the season standings.

Palou in the #10 car will carry full American Legion/Be The One colors in the 500. Along with that, the other drivers for the Ganassi team, Marcus Erickson and Marcus Armstrong, also will wear the Legion brand. Erickson won the 2022 Indianapolis 500.

Race coverage will start at 12:30 PM on May 28 with coverage by NBC. Watch and help root Palou & the Legion car to another victory

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Post Commander Jay's Comments

Greetings! Well at the end of this month we'll officially be half-way through the year. Hopefully it's been a good one so far.

I don't know that I have a lot for this month's newsletter. We held our second Veteran's Coffee in May. It is going well and we're looking forward to continuing it. Feel free to come down and enjoy some coffee, a donut or bagel, and some fellowship. All veterans are welcome whether they are members or not, so if you know a veteran who is not a member let them know.

I think by now everyone has heard of the Legion's National "Be the One" initiative. Here at the Ames post, one of our members, Ron Kobeluch, a Vietnam veteran, former POW, and a recent cancer survivor, has stepped up to help us get the message out to the community. I would like to publicly thank Ron

for taking this on and ask that if anyone that would like to help, please contact me or Ron.

June brings the election of new officers. Elsewhere in this newsletter you'll find the slate of officers put forth by the nominating committee. There are still open slots, so if you're interested in being part of the leadership team, there's still time. Just let Dave Rehein, Stan Elliott, or Doug MacCrea know. Installation of officers will take place on Monday, July 10.

May saw the end of Steak Nights for the summer. I know what I'm about to say isn't going to go over too well, but we will be taking a hard look at whether to continue the monthly Steak Night or shift to less costly dinners. The profits made from the monthly Steak Night are shared across the Legion Family (Legion, Auxiliary, and SAL) to help

support their programs.

Unfortunately, with the continuing increase in the cost of meat and other supplies, the return on investment has been minimal. The final numbers aren't in for this year, but we're looking at a total of \$1000 to be split three ways. That is the income for the nine months we ran Steak Night. That is just over half of the total from last year. To be clear, no decision has been made, but we will be reviewing our options.

I want to thank everyone for your continued support during the past year. As I'm on the slate again for Commander, I'm looking forward to the opportunity to continue to serve you the members and to help make the Ames post all it can be.

Take care and stay safe! See you at the post.

Unit President Rachel's Comments

Greetings!

We're heading into the warm summer months and there are many opportunities to help and volunteer around the Post and in your communities. If you do volunteer, please remember to keep track of your hours, so that we can report them at the end of the year.

Thank you to everyone who helped the Unit with Poppy distribution during Memorial Day Weekend. Just a quick reminder to count those volunteer hours. The Department has 2 events this month. Each lasting 1 week.

The first is Juniors Camp. This is June 5-9 at the Newton Christian Conference Center. During this week the Juniors will not only have a week of fun and making friendships, but will also learn about the American Legion Family.

On Friday morning, June 9th Honorary Department Junior President Sadie will be conducting the Department of Iowa Junior Conference. The conference starts at 9:00 am. All Legion Family members are encouraged to attend and show their support of our Junior members. We have 3 members from our unit that will be attending this camp as well

as several senior members that will be helping either as counselors or assisting with programs and activities during camp.

The 2nd event is Girls State. This week-long event is being held June 18-23 on the Drake Campus. Girls State is a week-long event that gives young ladies, who have completed their junior year in high school, an opportunity to learn about the political process. The Unit is sending 3 area girls to this event.

I wish everyone a safe summer as school is out and there are more people out and about with the warmer weather.

Squadron Commander Doug's Comments

Well, summer is here, Memorial Day is (or soon will be) behind us, and we can start looking forward to another relatively busy summer schedule in Ames.

June also marks the beginning of the end of my tenure as Squadron Commander. As a Squadron we have had some successes – and some failures, but I want to thank all of you for entrusting the leadership of our Squadron to me. It is now time for me to pay back that privilege by helping to mentor whomever is elected at the June meeting to lead the Squadron in the year ahead.

As just said, at the June Meeting you will elect the Squadron Officers for the upcoming year (I will not be able to be at the June meetings as I will be in Connecticut finally christening the new IO-WA). We are fortunate enough to have several very talented Squadron members step forward and volunteer to serve and guide the Squadron in the year ahead.

There are still a couple of positions vacant within the organization, so if you are able and willing to donate two or three hours a month to help govern the Squadron, I encourage you to come to

the June meeting and add your name to the ballot. There – I'll make it a challenge – who wants to accept it?

Remember, this is your Squadron and you should want to elect Squadron members that share your vision for the Squadron. Just like an election to elect government leaders, this is your opportunity to elect Squadron members to leadership positions that you feel will be the best for our overall organization. The voice of each and every Squadron member is important!

Have a great month of June! For God and country.

 AMERICAN
LEGION

BE THE ONE

Clubroom News

We are so excited for the warmer weather and the fact that Summer is almost here. We will still have some of great weekly specials going on throughout the Summer so please stop in join us.

We have had to make a couple hard decisions this last month in regards to the clubroom but they are decisions that needed to be made. The raising cost of supplies and pretty much everything we offer has caused us to have to raise our prices on certain items starting June 1. We have tried to hold out but can no longer do so. Also, our Saturday's and Sunday's in the summer time are often very light on customers and so we will also start summer hours at the start of the month. Starting June 1, the clubroom will open at 3pm on Saturday's and Sunday's and will close at 8pm unless business is good enough to stay open later. These hours will be adjusted again in the Fall when business starts to pick up again. Thank you to everyone for their continued support and we hope to see you soon!!

Curbside Meals-please check the Facebook page and the weekly updates for our full menu each week

Wed. June 7-Ham Balls

Wed. June 14-Burger Night

Wed. June 21-Hand Breaded Chicken Strips

Wed. June 29-Steak Night

These meals are available for pickup or dine-in from 5-6:30pm. Call anytime after 2pm to order.



Kudos-Thanks to all who helped out over the last month. It is greatly appreciated. Tom Fowler, Russ and Vicki Belz, Paul Madsen, Megan McEnany, Sandy Deacon, Mike Deacon, Marty Kelly, Ken Woodley, Bill Donovan, Julie Rinard, Colten Christensen, Gary Freel and Rodger VanVoorhis.

Veterans Property Tax Exemption Increased

The property tax exemption that all veterans enjoy on their primary residence was increased during the 2023 legislative session. This is the first time that this exemption has been increased since 1974.

This increase has been a priority of The American Legion for many years. This legislation illustrates the the value of continuing to advocate for a worthy cause.

The new law more than doubles the veterans property tax exemption by increasing it to \$4,000 in taxable value from the current \$1,852 in taxable val-

ue.

Applications for the exemption are due July 1 to the local assessor. However, military veterans currently receiving the exemption do not need to file a new application as long as the veteran or the veteran's spouse is the legal or equitable owner of the property on July 1 for which the exemption is allowed according to John Fuller, a spokesperson for the Iowa Department of Revenue.

The exemption applies for a honorably separated, retired, furloughed to a reserve, placed on inactive status or discharged veteran.

First Day of Month—Be The One Day

The American Legion is asking each of us to Be The One when the time comes to recognize a veteran in crisis and assist that veteran in finding the help that is needed.

The National Executive Committee passed a resolution declaring the first of each month as "BE THE ONE" day. We must be aware every day that today we may need to "Be The One" but they are asking that special attention be paid to the need to "Be The One" on the first day of each month.

Here at the Ames Post, Be The One is the reason behind the veteran's coffee

on the first Friday each month. It provides a time for us to get together and if someone needs help, we are there. That of course is not the only time for us to Be The One.

One of our members, Ron Kobeluch, has stepped forward to lead the effort to spread the message in Ames that we are here when a veteran needs us to Be The One. Repeating those words every chance we get is just one way that we can fulfill that mission.

Just remember, the 1st day of each month is the time for us to pay special attention to Be The One.

Legion Riders

Finally May has brought real riding weather! The first weeks weren't so great but we finished with a bang. Eight Riders rode the Sleeping Angels Fun Run and in total raised over 70K for the wonderful work they do. To speak with the families, and see the gratitude they give in such a sad situation really brings what helping others means to heart.

The 6th District Legacy Ride looked to be cold and wet but we avoided the showers and with the help of American Legion families we have raised 3500 dollars so far just for the District. The Maxwell post gave us a terrific send off, Bondurant met us at the Freedom Rock, the Ankeny Commander joined in on our ride, Polk City grilled up a lunch, Nevada provided a place to recharge before we rode into Roland for a great dinner.

Our "Can Day" for WAA totally filled Mikes van. This is such a fun time, talking with post members and the community as they drop off cans and bottles. The Ames redemption center is working with us, if you can't make a can day, just tell them it's for the Riders and they will give us the proceeds.

We are the sponsors for the new flower garden at Ames cemetery. The Veteran's memorial and a new flagpole are all decorated just in time for Memorial Day.

Speaking of Memorial Day, that weekend is full of Riders events all across the state. Ames Riders will be leading a Thunder Ride from Dubuque to S. Sioux City across Hwy 20 to raise funds for the Veterans Emergency Fund at Department. We'll be at Denim Fest, and we'll be leading the way to the cemetery as we proudly honor the Veterans that came before us.

Riding season is in full swing now, so we'll see you on the road.

As always, ride safe and ride often

Cliff B.

Membership

Congratulations to Unit #37 for their membership work this year. They finished the year at 260, seven over their membership goal.

The Post and Squadron did not have that same success. The Squadron was 19 short while the Post missed their goal by 50.

The new membership year will begin in early July. We plan to make next year different and get everyone to goal.


AMERICAN LEGION POST NO. 37

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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JUNE

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
	Find us on Facebook at American Legion Family of Ames, IA Post 37			1 DOG NIGHT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE 6:00	2 FIREBALL FRIDAY MUNCHIES NIGHT	3
4 BINGO	5 LEGION RIDERS 6:30	6 TACO TUESDAY AUXILIARY REGULAR 6:30	7 WINESDAY WEDNESDAY CURBSIDE MEAL HAM BALLS	8 DOG NIGHT LEGION REGULAR 7:00	9 FIREBALL FRIDAY MUNCHIES NIGHT	10
11 BINGO	12	13 TACO TUESDAY SAL REGULAR 6:30	14 WINESDAY WEDNESDAY FLAG DAY CURBSIDE MEAL BURGER NIGHT	15 DOG NIGHT SOCIAL COMMITTEE 6:00	16 FIREBALL FRIDAY MUNCHIES NIGHT	17
18 BINGO	19 VFW POST MEETING 7:00	20 TACO TUESDAY	21 WINESDAY WEDNESDAY CURBSIDE MEAL CHICKEN STRIP	22 DOG NIGHT 40&8	23 FIREBALL FRIDAY MUSIC BINGO 7-9 PM	24
25 BINGO	26	27 TACO TUESDAY	28 WINESDAY WEDNESDAY CURBSIDE MEAL STEAK NIGHT	29 DOG NIGHT	30 FIREBALL FRIDAY VETERANS COFFEE 9-11AM MUNCHIES NIGHT	