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Vol XLIII, No 5
 December 2023
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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

Your Legion Dues Provide Help With Benefits

We all know that dues for the Ames American Legion Post will increase by \$10 on January 1. I suspect that there are those who are asking themselves, "Is it worth that extra \$10? Where does that go?"

Let's talk about that. There are benefits that come from your dues that you may not see. Benefits from work that happens in Des Moines and Washington DC.

Those benefits happen because The American Legion employs the professionals needed to form relationships with our legislators and those that assist our comrades with VA claims.

Only one of these benefits comes directly to you from their work. This year veterans that own their home will see the property tax exemption go from \$1,852 to \$4,000. A big part of the credit for getting that increase passed goes to the advocacy firm that the Iowa

American Legion employs to help with legislation. Your dues help with that.

In Des Moines, your dues also pay part of the salary for our service officers as they work to help veterans with VA claims. Is that help needed by those veterans and is it well spent?

A simple look at the report from the Des Moines Regional Office answers that question. Their 2023 fiscal year report showed that \$1,585,364 came to those veterans that had Legion representation. That same report shows that all the VSOs that assisted with claims totaled \$2,561,773.

In other words, almost 2/3 of the claims granted came because of Legion representation. Your dues helped with each of those claims by paying the salaries of those Legion representatives.

In Washington, we recently saw the passage of the PACT Act for those veter-

ans that served in Iraq and Afghanistan. That legislation does for them what the Agent Orange legislation did for the Vietnam veteran, establishes service connection for certain conditions traced back to the chemical exposure they suffered during their service.

Your dues help pay for the professional staff that work for the Legion to help with legislation. You are partially responsible for the compensation those Iraq and Afghanistan veterans will receive.

Is it worth the extra \$10? It is worth much more than that. We were formed to help our comrades. Without members we can't do that. We need you to help us help them. Renew NOW.

November 15 Membership Target Drawing Winner
Kenneth Holscher
Next Drawing—Dec. 13

Auxiliary Cookie Fair/SAL Breakfast

It's that time of year again! The Annual Cookie Fair hosted by Unit 37. It will be December 9th from 7:00-11:00 AM. Squadron 37 will also be having their breakfast at that time. Come, eat breakfast and fill a box of cookies from a wide assortment all for \$10.

If you were contacted to bring cookies, bring them to the Post on Friday evening. We will have people there to collect them. We are also in need of volunteers for this event on both Friday and Saturday. We need 1 or 2 more people on Friday evening to collect cookies as well as Saturday from 6 am

until approximately 12 noon. This would include setting up, restocking trays and help as needed, including clean-up. *Note: if you know of or have a high school student that is looking for silver cord hours, this would be an excellent opportunity to get those hours. Also, Junior Auxiliary members, this would be a great way to help out the unit!

If you have any questions and/or want to help out please contact Rachel at rsbreyfogle@gmail.com or 515-233-3482.

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Post Commander Jay's Comments

Well, here we are in December with another year about to end. They say time flies when you're having fun. I'm pretty sure it wasn't all fun, but it flew by anyway.

December is a busy month around the Post with all the Legion family having something happening. The Legion has our monthly Steak Night on December 2, the SAL has biscuits and Gravy on December 9th along with the Auxiliary's Annual Cookie Fair, and on December 16th the Riders will be placing wreaths on the graves of veterans at Ames Municipal and Ontario cemeteries as part of Wreaths Across America. There are over 1800 veterans in Ames Municipal cemetery so I'm sure they'll welcome any volunteers that want to come out

and help.

December also marks the one-year anniversary of the start of our monthly 50/50 raffles. The raffles have helped to raise much needed funds for various Legion family projects. The December raffle is raising funds for lighting in the downstairs kitchen. Tickets would make a great stocking stuffer.

If you haven't renewed your membership for 2024 yet, December is the last month to renew before the dues increase to \$55 on January 1, 2024. We can also use your help in signing up new members. If you know a veteran who isn't a member, bring them by the Post and let them see who we are and while there give them an application. Applications are available in the bro-

chure rack on the East wall at the front of the club room.

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, please email amespost37member-ship@gmail.com

In closing, I want to thank you once again 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 2024.

Looking forward to an even better 2024!

Unit President Jamie's Comments

Happy Holidays!

As I begin to think about December, I think about how busy this fall has been! In late October, our Children and Youth committee did a great job welcoming over 600 kids during the Downtown Trick or Treat! In November, we had 3 of our 2023 Girls State Citizens come speak at our monthly meeting and also held our ALA Initiation Ceremony. We observed Veteran's Day with the program at Ames City Hall. The Veterans Supermarket was held on Saturday (11/18) at the Plex. It is heartwarming to see our veterans coming to discuss their benefits, obtain needed resources,

and interact with many of our own veterans and Legion Family. Our Terri Lynn nuts fundraiser was a very successful one and again, we have all of you to thank for helping make this fundraiser be successful!

On **December 9th**, we will hold our annual Cookie Fair in conjunction with the SAL Biscuits and Gravy breakfast. Please bring in your donated cookies on Friday afternoon/early evening so we can get them all prepared for Saturday's sale. Thank you to our baking assistants as well as our setup, fulfilling, cashiering and cleanup crews and everyone else helping with this important

fundraiser. We hope to see many of our legion family and friends at the event!

This year, the ALA has chosen to adopt another military family by creating an angel tree in our club room. Thanks to everyone's generosity, this has been one of our favorite ways to give back to our veterans and their families. We ask that any tags taken be returned to the post by Monday, **December 18th** to provide time to complete final purchases, wrap gifts and deliver. Wishing you all a warm and happy holiday season!

Squadron Commander Cort's Comments

As per usual, the year has flown by and we now enter into the final month of 2023 and begin looking forward to 2024. December can be a hectic month oftentimes, but we also look forward to spending extra time with friends and family during the holidays and that includes your Legion Family.

January 2024 is right around the corner, and that means SAL members who haven't yet renewed need to do so before dues increase to \$55 starting in 2024. Renewals to date stand at around 44%. I sure would hate to see folks not take advantage of the current rate before it is set to increase.

The Squadron will be hosting the SAL Biscuits and Gravy Breakfast on December 9 along with the ALA's Cookie Fair. We will be open for business 7am - 11am. Come on out with your family, have some breakfast and stock up on your holiday cookie inventory. Events

like this help us raise funds for our many programs that benefit youth and our veteran community. So please help us get the word out!

November was a productive month for your Squadron. A couple of items of note include a successful SAL sponsored Steak Dinner on November 4 and Junior Air Rifle Club continues in full swing. For the latter, the club will begin competing in the Iowa Postal Match, which consists of matches every two weeks from December 1 through March of 2024. In January, the club will have several members compete in the American Legion National Postal Match and then competitions concludes in March with several members competing in the Department of Iowa Legion Match at Camp Dodge.

Merit Award applications will begin to be accepted shortly. Details will be given in another article and will be post-

ed soon on Facebook and the Ames Legion Website. Squadron members have worked hard the last couple of months to make the application process more streamlined and will be awarding \$1000 each to two students that best fulfill the application requirements, including best essays. Deadline for submitting applications is February 29, 2024, so help us get the word out to parents who have eligible graduating high school students planning to continue their education. Eligibility requirements will be explained in the Merit Award application.

I sincerely appreciate all of our Squadron members. Your membership and continued support means alot to the Legion Family and to me personally. Blessings to you all and I wish you a wonderful and happy holiday season!

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 to the basement lighting. 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 6-Chicken Enchilada's

Wed. Dec 13-Chicken Fried Steak

Wed. Dec 20-Ham Balls

Wed. Dec 27-Chicken Strips

Check our Weekly Update and our Facebook page for additional items

and more info.

Friday, Dec.15- Burger Basket Night 5-7pm and Music Bingo 7-9pm.

We will be having a Clubroom Christmas Party on **Friday, Dec 22** starting at 5:30pm. Wear your favorite ugly Christmas sweater, bring a snack to share and enjoy some Christmas cheer with friends!

December 24th 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.

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, Marty and Jo Kelly.



Help Place Wreaths

Help the Ames American Legion Riders honor local heroes!

Volunteer to place wreaths on veteran's graves on December 16th at the Ames Municipal Cemetery at 11:00 AM. Sign Up at the Post.



SAL Merit Award Scholarship Application

It is that time of year again, young people we know will be graduating soon. Many are thinking about, and planning for their futures. For those considering post High School education or training you can help them out. By telling them about the Sons of the American Legion Merit Award you can help them pay for their continuing education. The S.A.L. Merit Award is better this year. We are now awarding two (2) \$1000.00 awards.

The current High School senior is eligible; if they are a descendant of an Ames Legion Post 37 Member and the student can live anywhere, or if they are

the descendant of a veteran that lives anywhere, and attend High School at Ames or Gilbert High Schools, or if they are Home Schooled but live in one of the two school districts.

The application is available now on the Ames Post 37 web site, through the Ames and Gilbert High School's web sites, the Home School Network, or at the Post Clubroom (Just ask the bartender for a hard copy).

The deadline for submission is Thursday, February 29, 2024 at 7:00 pm.

Legion Riders

Happy Thanksgiv... no wait, that's not right. How did it get to be December already?

This month is where your Riders step up to complete our yearly mission. On **December 16th, at 11am**, your riders will stand in front of our community and celebrate the lives of our Veterans that are no longer with us. At Ames Cemetery, and this year Ontario Cemetery, your Riders will place approximately 1800 wreaths on the grave of Veterans. This mission started in 2020, with just the ceremony and the wreaths for the branches of the military.

Since that cold December day, we've audited the cemetery, worked with the city to improve their records, and brought the message of Wreaths Across America. That message is to Remember, Honor, and Teach. WAA puts it this way, "In many American homes, every day there is an empty seat for one who is serving or one who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country and never came home. That is why the Wreaths Across America mission to Remember, Honor and Teach lasts all year long, far beyond the single day in December when we coordinate wreath-laying ceremonies."

Your Riders are proud to be ambassadors in this mission. Of particular note is a quote from Pierre Claeysens, a designer of the WWII Liberty ships. "To be killed in war is not the worst that can happen. To be lost is not the worst that can happen... to be forgotten is the worst." Each grave is presented a wreath and the presenter is asked to say the name of the individual out loud and thank them for their service.

We'd welcome your help. If you can spare an hour or so on the 16th, meet us at Ames Cemetery at 10:45. It's only with your help that this mission is fulfilled every year. If you would like more information, reach out to the WAA committee, and there is a volunteer sign up sheet at the post as well. To those of you that have supported us all year long with the can drives, donation of time, and by helping us reach out to sponsors, your Riders would like to say thank you.

Lastly, I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas from your Riders, it's an honor to be part of the Ames Legion Family.

As always, Ride Safe, and Ride often.

Cliff Barker

AMERICAN LEGION POST NO. 37

225 Main Street
Ames, IA 50010

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NON PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
Permit 147
Ames, IA

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 American Legion Family of Ames, IA Post 37			1 FIREBALL FRIDAY	2 STEAK DINNER 5:00—7:00
3 BINGO	4 LEGION RIDERS 6:30	5 TOASTED CHEESE & SOUP AUXILIARY REGULAR 6:30	6 WINESDAY WEDNESDAY CURBSIDE MEAL TEX MEX	7 DOG NIGHT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE 6:00	8 FIREBALL FRIDAY MUNCHIES NIGHT	9 BISCUITS & GRAVY COOKIE FAIR
10 BINGO	11	12 TOASTED CHEESE & SOUP SAL REGULAR 6:30	13 WINESDAY WEDNESDAY CURBSIDE MEAL CHICKEN FRIED STEAK	14 DOG NIGHT LEGION REGULAR 7:00	15 FIREBALL FRIDAY BURGER NIGHT MUSIC BINGO	16 WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA 11AM
17 BINGO	18 VFW POST MEETING 7:00	19 TOASTED CHEESE & SOUP	20 WINESDAY WEDNESDAY CURBSIDE MEAL HAM BALLS	21 DOG NIGHT SOCIAL COMMITTEE 6:00	22 FIREBALL FRIDAY UGLY SWEATER XMAS PARTY	23
24 XMAS EVE 31 NEW YEARS EVE BINGO	25 CHRISTMAS DAY CLUBROOM CLOSED	26 TOASTED CHEESE & SOUP	27 WINESDAY WEDNESDAY CURBSIDE MEAL CHICKEN STRIPS	28 DOG NIGHT 40&8	29 FIREBALL FRIDAY MUNCHIES NIGHT	30 PAST PRESIDENT'S PARLEY 10:00