

Post Commander: Jay Sisco
Unit President: Jamie Barker
Squadron Commander: Cort Pahl
Chapter Director: Cliff Barker

Vol XLIII, No 10

May 2024

225 Main Street
 Ames, IA 50010
 515-232-9870

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

District Conference Elections and Legislative Update

Our District Conference was held April 20 hosted by the Cumming Post and Unit.

The Ames Legion family was honored by the election of Jamie Barker to lead the District Auxiliary as their President and Cliff Barker to assist Commander Don DeKock as one of the District Vice Commanders. Linda Henderson was also elected Treasurer for the ALA District.

In addition, Past District Commander Bob Colin was endorsed by the district as a candidate for Department Vice Commander for 2024-25.

The primary information was an update on the Iowa Legislature which adjourned early that morning. Two pieces of legislation were passed and signed that improve the veterans benefits in Iowa.

HF 2663 provides money

for training of the county veterans service officers to improve their ability to prepare claims. Each county now has \$3,000 to draw on for training but the county must certify that the funds were used for training. Before this, money was available for training but could be diverted to other uses. This \$3,000 MUST be used for training or will revert to the state.

HF 259 corrects a long standing problem for National Guard and Reserve troops. Prior to this bill, there was a minimum service time necessary to qualify for veterans benefits. Troops that became ill or injured prior to that elapsed time that could no longer serve for medical reasons did not have veterans status and were ineligible for benefits. HF 259 corrects that problem.

In addition to those items, SF 345 was sent to Governor Reynolds for consideration. This bill outlines funding for specialty courts and diversion programs.

Among the specialty courts in Iowa, veterans treatment courts are growing in use. These courts deal with veterans in the court system whose legal problems may be caused from PTSD or TBI from their service.

In a veterans court, most if not all of the court officers, those being the judge and prosecuting and defense attorneys are veterans. While the veterans court does not eliminate punishment for the alleged crimes, treatment for those underlying conditions can help prevent any recurrence.

Veterans courts are in operation now in Woodbury and Pottawattamie counties. We look forward to more.

National President to Visit



National President Lisa Williamson will visit the American Legion Auxiliary. Her Post for a dinner hosted by Ames Unit #37. Her visit will be one stop on her tour of Iowa. Details of the dinner will be made available on the weekly update but put May 20 on your calendar as an event not to miss.

President Williamson is a member of C. Russell Huber Unit #57 in Fairbanks

Alaska. She has served in most of the leadership positions in the American Legion Auxiliary. Her focus is to increase awareness about the veteran and military suicide epidemic by embracing The American Legion's Be the One initiative — be the one to save one. She is also a Legion Riders member.

President Lisa has a special connection to Iowa. Russell and Peggy Huber, for whom her Post is named, were originally Iowans before moving to Alaska. Come to dinner and get to know her.

Inside this issue:

Post Commander	2
Unit President	2
Squadron Commander	2
Clubroom Events	3
Honor Guard Help	3
Memorial Day Events	3
Past Presidents Parley	3

Post Commander Jay's Comments

Greetings! First let me apologize to the Legion membership, I was unable to attend the 6th District Spring Conference, so I have no update to share at this time. I can tell you that the 6th District is currently leading the way on Boy's State delegates with 35. The Department currently has 223 boys registered with the goal of 300 insight. The deadline has been extended to June 1 and we still have two spots available. If you know of a boy who is currently a high school junior and would be a good candidate let myself or Stan Elliott know.

May will see the last Steak Night (May

4), sponsored by the SAL, before our summer break. We'll resume in September. Come on out for a great dinner and let's close the year on a high note. May also sees the start of the downtown Farmers Market and along with it our monthly pancake breakfasts. More information will be put out in the weekly update.

Also, in May, the Nominating Committee will bring forth a new slate of officers for the 2024-2025 year. The slate will be voted on at the June meeting and officers will be installed in July. If you are interested in serving as an officer, contact Doug MacCrea or John

Baldwin.

The Ames Patriotic Council Memorial Day observance will be Monday, May 27, at the Ames Municipal Cemetery. It would be nice if we could have a large group of members walk in the parade from City Hall to the cemetery. We will put additional information in the weekly schedule as we get closer.

Finally, remember to Be the One to ask a veteran how he/she is doing, Be the One to listen when a veteran is talking, and Be the One to reach out when a veteran is struggling.

Until next time take care and stay safe!

Unit President Jamie's Comments

May is the promised month from "April showers bring May flowers" and what better time than to discuss the Poppy! On the Legion page, I was able to read the story of the Poppy. After WWI, the Poppies began to grow all-over war-torn Europe and scientists have attributed the little beautiful poppies growth to the lime and rubble in the soil that now symbolizes the blood shed during the battles. In 1920, the Poppy became the official flower of our American Legion Family to memorialize the soldiers who died during the war. The American Legion Auxiliary coordinates and distributes poppies for donations to help support our veterans and their families. Please help us do that this year. Jodi Looft is our Poppy Chairman and she has the sign-up sheets so, please sign up for a couple of hours to help us distribute these poppies! Have you read the poem by Lt. Colonel John McCrae, MD? The link is below if you haven't! <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/47380/in-flanders-fields>

A special thank you to all who helped us with the annual bake sale. Thanks to all of you, we were able to raise almost \$900 to go towards our programs! It

was a great fundraiser but wouldn't be possible without collaboration with our SAL and their breakfast event, our workers, all the amazing bakers and everyone who made purchases. Our Ways and Means Chair, Rachel Breyfogle, was able to donate any leftover items to the Ames Fire Department which ties directly to our mission of community service.

The first annual Legion Family Day in the Park was a great success and we enjoyed seeing members of our community having fun and participating in the activities. Hopefully everyone had a great day. More to report on this one later!

6th District Conferences were held on April 20th and I'm honored to announce that I had been nominated and now voted to be your next District President! I'll gladly take all the tips and pieces of advice as well as any suggestions from our unit here in Ames since we are blessed with a lot of experience. In August, we will have a Programs Workshop and all are welcome to attend and learn about the Department's Program Action Plan for 2024-2025. This will help with making plans for activity plan-

ning and report writing for next year. Congratulations to our own Linda Henderson, who was re-elected to District Treasurer. Ames is proud of the strong leadership we continue to provide to the District.

Our May meeting will include a Joint Memorial Service for our Ames Legion Family members who have passed this year. This memorial will be May 7th at 6:30 pm. All are welcome as the Legion, SAL and ALA Chaplains drape our charters for the month of May. The Patriotic Council will have their service at the cemetery on Memorial Day and this year, our Department Commander and Post 37 member, Stanley Elliott will be the guest speaker. Please keep Dee Thompson, our Gold Star Mother from our unit in your prayers during this time. If anyone would like to march (or ride!?) in the parade, please let me know right away as the parade is always looking for entries and I would love to also involve our Juniors!

Please remember to mark your calendars for May 20th to welcome our National President Lisa Williamson. Details will be released in the weekly updates!

Squadron Commander Cort's Comments

After a very busy Spring season, we look forward to Summer season mode. For example, officer and executive committee nominations are upon us during the month of May. In June we hold elections as per usual. Your squadron is very active and working hard to serve our community. One of the ways we remain effective and relevant is through holding annual elections for our squadron officer roles. This is a great way for our members to contribute to the success of our squadron. Attend

our May meeting and find out how you can serve!

On May 4 Squadron 37 will be hosting a steak dinner from 5-7 PM at the Post. So mark your calendars. These kinds of events are important fund raising opportunities for the Squadron. Show your support by coming out to enjoy great food and camaraderie.

On May 7 the Legion holds its annual joint Memorial Service during the Auxiliary's May meeting. The memorial ser-

vice honors those who have gone to their eternal home. All Legion Family members are invited to attend. I appreciate these events and how they bring our Legion family together to remember those who have gone on before us.

Finally, thank you for your faithful membership to our Squadron 37. We need each and everyone of you. The strength of our Squadron depends on you and your contributions and talents.

Clubroom News

Happy May! We are getting closer to some warmer days and more sunshine! We have had a few teasers of nice days but hopefully we will have more soon. We have lots going on in the clubroom this month and hope you will join us. Poppy Days are coming up on the 24th and 25th. We will have a sign up sheet in the clubroom if you can help distribute please sign up for a time slot. If you know of a business who would let us put poppies in, please let me know.

Here are our Wednesday Meals for May:

May 1-Tex Mex

May 8-Burger Night

May 15-Chicken Fried Steak

May 22-Meatloaf

May 29-Hand breaded chicken strips

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. 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.

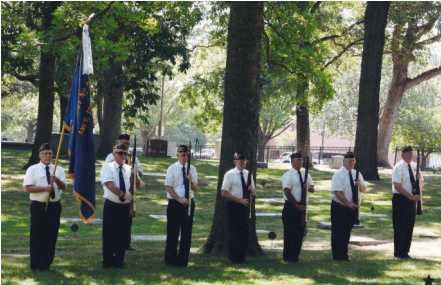
Winesday Wednesday-try one of our many fine wines, whether you like a dry red or a sweet white or somewhere in between we have a wine for you. Just \$3.50 a glass!

Thursday's-Enjoy \$2 hotdogs, your choice of plain, Jalapeno or Cheddar sausage. Wash them down with \$2.50 Domestic bottles.



Thanks to all that volunteered to help make our Curbside and Tenderloin night's a great success!! We could not do them without all the help Marty Kelly and Jo Kelly, Colten Christensen, Bill Donovan, Ken Woodley, Sandy and Mike Deacon, Paul Madsen, Megan McEnany, Maria McEnany, Julie Rinard, Tom Fowler, Russ and Vicki Belz.

Help Honor our Fallen Comrades



President Jamie's column speaks to the tradition of poppies for Memorial Day and how that dates back to our founding after WW I.

There is another tradition that dates to that same period, honoring our fallen

comrades. The Ames Post and Squadron have continued that tradition by supplying a firing squad for the funeral of any of our comrades when their family requests that honor.

We have dedicated members that serve on that firing squad nearly every time. We have others that serve when they can take the time from work and other duties.

That group dwindles though as our dedicated members grow older. We need new members to step forward. You can contact us at davidrehbein@msn.com to add your name to our list. Let's make sure we keep this tradition of honor alive.

Memorial Day Events

The assistance of the Legion Post Family is requested to support the following Memorial Day events:

May 23rd, 5:00 PM - Ames Municipal Cemetery – help the Sons place flags on veterans graves (rain or shine)

May 24th, 7:00 AM - Flags go up on Main Street

May 27th, 11:00 AM - Memorial

Day ceremony at Municipal Cemetery

May 27th, 5:00 PM - Flags come down on Main Street

May 28th, 5:00 PM - Ames Municipal Cemetery - help the Sons retrieve Flags from Veterans graves

In the event of inclement weather, the flag events on the 24th, 27th and 28th will be delayed one day.

Legion Riders

May is here and riding season is in full swing. May is motorcycle awareness month and it opens with the Sleeping Angels and will close with a very busy Memorial Day Weekend for your Riders. Before I start the rundown, I want to thank everyone for their support in acquiring and repairing the Veteran Markers in Ames cemeteries. Your help is what makes missions like this fulfilling and possible.

The Sleeping Angels Foundation is a non-profit for assistance to families that have lost a child in infancy and it is one of the greatest organizations in our area, we're proud to support Joey Droste every year.

May 18th your own Rider and Zylstra "employee", Randy Johns will be hosting a Hog Roast at Zylstra's shop, That weekend we'll also be planting the flowers for our little garden around the Veterans Monument in Ames Cemetery.

May 26th your riders will travel to Van Meter Cemetery to support other Riders in the Pennies for Heroes even, placing pennies on every grave at the National Cemetery.

Of course the Memorial Day parade on May 27th will include your Riders. I have a request, the Ames Patriotic Council was considering cancelling this event due to lack of attendance. My request is that if you're able, don't proceed directly into cemetery this year. If you arrive early, gather up near the entrance and lets show the APC there is indeed support for this parade.

May 29th and 30th is the escort for the Nation of Patriot Flag on it's trip across the country.

The Wreath Committee has secured the WAA Mobile Education Exhibit to stop in Ames on July 2nd so watch your calendars for that information.

Past Presidents Parley

The Past President's Parley of Ames Unit 37 met on April 13, 2024 with 9 members present. The following officers were elected for 2024-2025.

President – Maggie Schomaker

Vice President – Linda Henderson

Secretary/Treasurer – jointly by Marilyn Nervig and Jan Anderson

Chaplain – Sharon Bellinghausen.

There will be no May meeting.

The parley meets eight times each year and does projects for the Iowa Veterans Home.

AMERICAN LEGION POST NO. 37
 225 Main Street
 Ames, IA 50010

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NON PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
Permit 147
Ames, IA

MAY

<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 WEDNESDAY WINESDAY CURBSIDE MEAL TEX MEX	2 \$2 DOG NIGHT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE 6:00	3 FIREBALL FRIDAY MUNCHIES NIGHT	4 STEAK DINNER 5:00—7:00
5 BINGO	6 WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA 5:30 LEGION RIDERS 6:30	7 TACO TUESDAY AUXILIARY REGULAR 6:30	8 WEDNESDAY WINESDAY CURBSIDE MEAL BURGER NIGHT	9 \$2 DOG NIGHT LEGION REGULAR 7:00	10 FIREBALL FRIDAY MUNCHIES NIGHT	11
12 BINGO	13	14 TACO TUESDAY SAL REGULAR 6:30	15 WEDNESDAY WINESDAY CURBSIDE MEAL CHICKEN FRIED STEAK	16 \$2 DOG NIGHT SOCIAL COMMITTEE 6:00	17 FIREBALL FRIDAY MUNCHIES NIGHT	18
19 BINGO	20 NATIONAL PRESIDENT DINNER	21 TACO TUESDAY	22 WEDNESDAY WINESDAY CURBSIDE MEAL MEAT LOAF	23 \$2 DOG NIGHT 40&8	24 FIREBALL FRIDAY POPPY DAYS MUSIC BINGO	25 POPPY DAYS
26 BINGO	27 MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY	28 TACO TUESDAY	29 WEDNESDAY WINESDAY CURBSIDE MEAL CHICKEN STRIPS	30 \$2 DOG NIGHT	31 FIREBALL FRIDAY MUNCHIES NIGHT	