



Post Commander: Cliff Barker
Unit President: Jamie Barker
Squadron Commander: Cort Pahl
Chapter Director: Doug Sargent

Vol XLIV, No 10

May 2025

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 UNIT REACHES MEMBERSHIP GOAL



Unit President Jamie Barker and Membership Chair Sandy Deacon announced that the Unit has reached their membership goal for this year and are one over that goal.

WE DID IT! That achievement came as a result of having enrolled 20 new members this year. Of course that means that a number of current members did not renew. That is concerning but that concern can be addressed later. Right now it is the excitement of have achieved a goal

that has been before the leadership since last fall.

This is the second year in a row that the Ames Unit has exceeded their membership goal. Success builds upon the pride that comes with having been successful. The members of the Ames Unit are proud today because of their record of success. Thank you to everyone that helped and especially all those members who signed for 2025



LEGION FAMILY MEMBERS – WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Have you done any community service or volunteer work in the past year? Donated Blood? Helped with a Veterans event? Worked at a senior citizen event or helped out at a school? Donated money to local charity events in support of children or veterans?

Then we need to know about your contributions to the community and our veterans so that we can include your efforts in our Annual Report to the Department, which will in turn be

used as an input to the National Report that is required to be delivered to Congress each year.

We know that we make a big impact in the Ames Community – and we are not ones to brag about it, but our contributions make a really big difference, so let's tell everyone how much of an impact that we make.

Please provide any inputs that you have by May 14th.

Legionnaires and SAL members can provide your information to the Post Ad-

jutant by e-mail at dmac-crea@gmail.com or by text to 515-450-0773.

Auxiliary members can provide their information to the Unit Secretary or by email to amesunit37@gmail.com. Those reports need to be turned in by April 30.

Rider members can provide their information to the Chapter Secretary at their next meeting. You can also drop your input off at the Post. Thank you in advance for your support.

MEMORIAL EVENTS IN MAY

The Legion family will hold our annual membership memorial during the Unit meeting on May 6. We will remember each of our members that passed away in the past year. Please join us. Ames will commemorate Memorial Day with the traditional parade and ceremony at the cemetery on May 26. The

parade steps off from downtown at 10:15 with the ceremony at the cemetery at 11.

Flags will go up downtown before Memorial Day and grave flags will be placed at the cemetery. Please watch the weekly update for specific dates and times for those events.

Inside this issue:

Post Commander	2
Unit President	2
Squadron Commander	2
Clubroom Events	3
Legion Riders	3
House Passes Vets Bill	3
Nominating Committees	3

Post Commander Cliff's Comments

Spring is here for real! Thank you to everyone that continues to support your Post and the Legion Family through the rain and sleet of February and March. April has flowers blooming all over town, it looks good, almost... happy.

Speaking of, I'm happy to say the Spring Cleaning Day went great. We ended up a little pressed for time, but both the hall and the bar area got a good scrubbing and waxing. Windowsills, cabinets, walls, and tables got cleaned and a lot of the white chairs as well. Some equipment got replaced that was at the end of its usable life. Your Legion looks good too folks! Thanks to Jamie, Mike, Sandy, Doan, Cara, Jodi L, Doug Mc, Kristen, and Steve M. for all of your hard work. None of this could be done without your help. There are still some other smaller projects still to be done to dress up the inside and outside yet, so as you see things happen-

ing know that my intention is to put the Ames American Legion in the place of honor it deserves. Feel free to help as you can.

With that I do have a couple favors to ask. I know we all look at things and think "Gee, the Post could use that" so we bring it up and drop it off. Lets try to cut back on that. If you have items to bring up, ask Jodi or myself first, It may very well be something we need, but please don't be put out if we say no. Sure, some things are obviously needed, free beer, a bag of money, etc., and there are some equipment drives coming for some new white chairs, but overall if we have a need for something we will say so.

This is also going to extend to the Medical Equipment supply situation. Going forward we cannot accept any more equipment of any kind. We have many,

many years supply of crutches, walkers, Standup wheelers, bath rails and the like. Wheelchairs especially are hard to take in or loan because they seldom come in with all the pieces. I'd like to think that it's sort of a good thing that the supply has way outpaced the demand, but it's time to stop. What we do have and do loan out, is theirs to keep. We don't want it back.

I know how this sounds, trust me, I know all too well the feeling of "someone needs this" but the actuality is, these items are provided by hospitals or facilities and billed to Insurance and Medicare, and we are so overloaded it's become a storage problem. If someone has a contact that would like to take all or some of this equipment we have and put it to better use than collecting dust, please put them in touch with me. Thank you again everyone.

Unit President Jamie's Comments

May has come quickly and spring is finally in swing! Many thanks to all of you who volunteered for the bake sale and/or baked goods for us to sell. This is one of our biggest fundraisers and we couldn't do it without you.

This month we will hold our annual Joint Legion Family Memorial service on May 6th at 6:30 and drape the charters and say the names of members who we have lost this past year.

Poppy Days are May 23rd and 24th. Please help us by distributing poppies at one of the grocery stores in Ames. Our chair, Jodi Looft, will have sign-up sheets available for each location and will create a bag and can for you to pick up before your shift.

Poppy funds are what we use strictly to

better the lives of living veterans, service members and their families. To learn more about the poppy program, please check the poppy guide right here:

https://ndala.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/ALA_Poppy_Guide-2024-Revision.pdf.

The Veterans Memorial Park will be adopted again by our unit and filled with flowers for planting and we always appreciate the help! Please contact Joyce Elliott for the time and date for planting, but it will be sometime the weekend of May 17-18 after the flowers and mulch have been delivered.

We will also participate in the Memorial Day wreath laying at the Ames Municipal Cemetery following the parade. Following the program at the

cemetery, the post hosts the community for a luncheon, so if you can help, please let me or Commander Cliff know. If you would be able to help serve or make a dessert, it would be very much appreciated!

Lastly, I'd like to thank everyone for renewing your membership and being a part of our Auxiliary. We make a difference in our military and veteran families. Every member is important to us. As you may have already read, we met our goal for Unit membership this year and I couldn't be prouder to represent you and this unit! Come join us at our meetings the first Tuesday of the month at 6:30. The more ideas we have, the more we can grow this organization.

Squadron Commander Cort's Comments

Hello fellow squadron mates. We look ahead to a busy month of activity for the Sons and the Ames Legion Family. In May we observe Memorial Day, honoring and mourning the U.S. military personnel who died while serving their country. For me, this stands out as our most important event of the month and arguably the year. The freedoms we enjoy are because of the sacrifices of others.

Our membership goal stands at 92%. We are so close to 100%. Please help us get those final renewals in; and better yet, sign up some new members!

My goal is to get 16 more renewals and/or new members over the next month. Please help your Squadron achieve this!

In April the Sons held their last Biscuits and Gravy Breakfast for the season. We partnered with the Auxiliary bake sale. Thank you to all who came out to make it a success and help raise funds for the Sons and Auxiliary!

The last Steak Dinner of the season, hosted by the Sons, is Saturday, May 3, 5:00pm to 7:00pm. Please come on out and bring friends and family. This is another important event to raise funds

for the squadron and to gather as a Legion Family.

May is also when we wrap up nominations for officers and the executive committee. If you would like to throw your hat in the ring to be considered for a position, please attend the Son's May 13 meeting at 6:30pm. I'm personally very proud of our Squadron and those who faithfully serve on its executive board and would like to see even more Sons members step up to the opportunity to help guide it over the coming year.

The Squadron's Merit Award winners this year are Braeden Nees and Nathan Baldwin both from Gilbert High School. They will each receive a \$1000 scholarship. Congratulations to each of them.

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 23rd and 24th. 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. A big thank you to the group of volunteers who gave up one of their Sunday's to come into the Post and clean. The place looked great and we all really appreciate each of you!

Here are our Wednesday Meals for May:

May 7-Tex Mex

May 14-Ham Balls

May 21-Chicken Pot Pie

May 28-Chicken Fried Steak

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, Lynn and John Sellmeyer, Chris Duncan, Paul Madson, Greg Hobbs, Rick Lippard, Bob Meyers, Julie Rinard, Tom Fowler, Russ and Vicki Belz.

Iowa House Approves DSO Grant

Early last week, the Iowa House of Representatives passed HF 1000 by an unanimous 92-0 vote.

That bill authorizes an appropriation of \$250,000 for matching grants for the Veterans Service Organizations to expand the staff in their Department Service Offices. The bill will now go on to the Senate for consideration there.

This measure represents a very significant step forward for those veterans in Iowa that have filled claims with the Veterans Administration for compensation for service-connected disabilities and pension for income related conditions.

The Iowa American Legion has seen our Service Office staff drop from four claims representatives working on behalf of veterans from 4 to 3. We have also changed so that all the clerical work is now done by volunteers, saving those funds..

This bill represents the recognition of



the state legislature that the veterans service organizations are not just working for the veterans but for the state of Iowa and that the state should recognize and help fund that service.

The American Legion is the major provider of veterans claims service in Iowa. The monthly reports from the VA Regional Office show that we are responsible for more claims work and federal VA funds coming into the state than all the other organizations combined.

Now we need the Senate to pass this appropriation so that Governor Reynolds can sign it into law. That is where you come in. Contact your state Senator and ask that their vote by AYE.

Go to www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/senate to find the email address for your Senator. Ask for the YES vote. Remember the bill number may change, Just ask them to approve the matching grant funding for the Veterans Service Organizations.

Legion Riders

Well, here we go! The riding season is kicking off! The Riders have a lot of rides and outreach opportunities ahead of us this season.

Starting out with the monthly can drives for Wreaths Across America (WAA) on the Third Saturday of the month from 9-11 am. April-October in the YSS parking lot behind the Legion. May's can drive will be on the 17th.

A breakfast ride has been scheduled for May 11 to the Sunrise Café in Legrand, KSU @ 9 am departing from Zylstra's parking lot. The Riders will be planting flowers at the Ames Cemetery on May 17th at 1 pm. Bring gloves and any garden tools you want to help plant.

Memorial Day parade, meet at the corner South of City Hall at 10:15. A ride to Veterans Rock North of Greenfield is scheduled for May 31.

This is just the month of May; we have other community celebrations that we plan to set up an information booth to get more information about the Riders and the other Legion families. Have a great Summer, ride safe.

The next meeting is May 5, at 6:30.

Best regards,
Director Doug

Officer Nomination Time



May is the month when the selection of officers for the coming year begins. Each of the Legion family organizations will be selecting a nominating committee to begin that process.

Those nominating committees are not going to just sit back and wait for people to volunteer. Their job is to search out the people that will make good officers, people that bring ability and talent, people that will work to make the Ames Legion Family better.

They will come armed with a list of possible offices for you to consider. They will be able to tell you what taking one of those officers will mean to you in terms of time commitment and effort.

Maybe you aren't ready to take on a Commander or President office but you have been a member now for at least a year. If you want to help make the Ames Legion family better and stronger, think about taking one of the offices. There is work but there is satisfaction.

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 \$2 DOG NIGHT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE 6:00	2 FIREBALL FRIDAY MUNCHIES NIGHT	3 STEAK DINNER 5:00—7:00
4 BINGO	5 WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA 5:30 LEGION RIDERS 6:30	6 TACO TUESDAY AUXILIARY REGULAR 6:30	7 WINESDAY WEDNESDAY CURBSIDE MEAL TEX-MEX	8 \$2 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 CURBSIDE MEAL HAM BALLS	15 \$2 DOG NIGHT SOCIAL COMMITTEE 6:00	16 FIREBALL FRIDAY MUNCHIES NIGHT	17 WAA CAN DRIVE 9-11 PAST PRESIDENT'S PARLEY 10:00
18 BINGO	19 VFW POST MEETING 7:00	20 TACO TUESDAY	21 WINESDAY WEDNESDAY CURBSIDE MEAL CHICKEN POT PIE	22 \$2 DOG NIGHT 40&8	23 FIREBALL FRIDAY MUNCHIES NIGHT	24
25 BINGO	26 MEMORIAL DAY PARADE—10:15 CEREMONY—11	27 TACO TUESDAY	28 WINESDAY WEDNESDAY CURBSIDE MEAL CHICKEN FRIED STEAK	29 \$2 DOG NIGHT	30 FIREBALL FRIDAY MUNCHIES NIGHT	31