



Post Commander: Cliff Barker
Unit President: Jodi Mann
Squadron Commander: Russ Belz
Chapter Director: Doug Sargent

www.ameslegionpost37.com
www.ialegion.org
www.iowaala.org
www.ialegion.org/riders

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

www.legion.org
www.alaforveterans.org
www.sal.legion.org

Mortgage Loan Payments and Deferred Maintenance

Two things have happened in the last 30 days that affect the future of The American Legion Post and the Legion family home in Ames.

The first affects the loan payments that are currently being made from the remodeling a few years ago. That loan comes due on December 15 and must be either refinanced or paid off.

At the September Post meeting, word was received that an anonymous donor wished to make a payment against the loan principal equal to a month's loan payment of \$1,517. That would reduce the amount to be refinanced.

That donor requested that a challenge be given to the membership to match that amount. More on that later in this article.

Since then, a second anonymous donor has come forward with the same offer. That second donor wants to keep the match challenge in

place so that if the challenge is met, payments totaling three monthly payments would be made against the principal.

Details on the challenge will be in the next issue but it has been decided that the challenge will run through November and end November 30.

Make your plans now to help meet that challenge. The challenge period starts October 1. Your donation can be whatever size you wish but we need the total donations from the challenge to match a month's payment.

Another issue has come up though too. We have received a notice from the City of Ames that work is needed on the front of our building.

There is a window that was boarded over some time ago, exactly how long is unsure. That plywood needs to be removed and the window restored in order to stay

within the city code. You will see that happen in the next few weeks.

In addition there are several bricks in the front wall that appear to be loose. That may be a symptom of a larger problem. We will have a masonry contractor check that wall and at least ensure that we are not about to have bricks fall.

This brings up an even larger issue. For many years, we have not used our building to its best potential. You may see some conversation starting on the future of the home of The Ames Legion Family. Is this building on Main Street the best location for that home?

Obviously, we cannot just continue deferring needed maintenance. Equally we cannot continue leaving one-third of the building completely unused. We need to have that conversation and think about the future of The Ames Legion Family and the home of that family.

Membership in Full Swing

The membership renewal campaign is in full swing across the entire Legion family. Renewal notices are in the mail or soon will be.

There is no reason to wait for that renewal notice to arrive. You can renew online by going to the National website, Legion.org, and clicking on the red Renew button. There are links that will take you to the renewal page for the Auxiliary and Sons.

Dues amounts are below. Feel free to mail your renewal to the Post at 225 Main and we will get your check to the right person.

Post—\$55

Unit—\$40 (Adult), \$5 (Age 17 & Younger), \$20 (If You Are Also Post Member)

Squadron—\$55 (Adult), \$15 (Age 20 & Younger), \$15 (If You Are Also Post Member)

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Post Commander Cliff's Comments

It seems like forever has passed since I wrote the September column. I was heading out for the Legacy Ride with Mike Deacon and for National Convention. There is nowhere near enough room to cover all we saw and all we did. I will say that the Southeast in August is hot, and humid.

The hospitality shown by the posts along the way for 300 plus Riders was exceptional. It didn't matter if it was a lunch stop or just a place to regroup and get off the road for a bit, everyone was happy to see us.

National Convention was a blur of meetings and classes, and if you've never been, next year it is in Louisville, and it isn't that far to go to experience it for yourself.

Locally the Ames post has been busy with budgets and planning fall events.

The canteen will be adjusting the opening times for football, and the steak dinners will be coming back this month. Keep an eye on the calendar for the most up to date information.

We continue to attract new members, and that's the first step. The second is to make sure they come into a welcoming and friendly environment. I'm asking each of you to do your part to extend the hospitality of the Ames Legion Family to all.

We continue to look at new ways of including not just the regular volunteers but everyone in the Family as we reach out to the community. If you know of or are hosting an event where we could help, let me know, we'd love to be a part of it if we can.

Lastly, a little trivia for October. Did you know that Veterans Day was moved to

the fourth Monday of October in 1971 because of the Uniform Monday Holiday Act of 1968. The move was intended to create more three-day weekends for federal employees. However, many people disagreed with the change, arguing that the holiday's historical significance should be tied to the November 11th date. In response to the confusion and to public protest, President Gerald Ford signed a law in 1975 to move the holiday back to November 11th, and the change officially took effect in 1978.

You will have read on the front page that conversation about the future of the Legion family home will be starting. Your input and opinions will be important in that conversation. It will not be an easy decision whichever way we go.

Unit President Jodi's Comments

Just another shout out for all our Legion Family members to join our Auxiliary meeting Tuesday October 7th at 6:30. We will have a visitor from Iowa State University's Memorial Union. Lana Seiler from the Gold Star Hall Memorial. She will be here to invite us all to this years Ceremony and talk about who this year's honorees will be.



The penny war is still on, keep those pennies coming. Just a reminder no sliver or paper money it counts against our total. Thank you to everyone who has put pennies in our penny bucket so far. The penny war is

on going till Winter Conference in February.

The Ames Unit will be participating in downtown trick or treat on Oct 30, giving back to the community and increasing community awareness of the Ames Legion family.

The Story County meeting was held in September and two volunteer opportunities were announced. Halloween Bingo at the Iowa Veterans Home on October 25th. Be there by 1:30 pm. Story County ALA Service Day will be on January 17 from



9-4 at the Nevada Legion Post.

Another volunteer opportunity is the Blue Star Mother packing day on November 7-8. They will be sending over 3500 care packages to the recently deployed National Guard Units from Iowa.

Winter will be us before we know it. Time to start getting our car Winter survival kits put together.

Sorry for the short note have a few family medical issues going on at this time. Everyone is doing well as expected.

Thank you

Squadron Commander Russ's Comments

As I write this, I am watching another tribute to Charlie Kirk. Charlie Kirk was trying to encourage discussion and debate rather than violence. He was doing what he could to mend our country. This reminded of another great American, President John F. Kennedy, and the quote from his inauguration speech. You know which one I am referring to, "Ask not what your Country can do for you . . . ask what you can do for your Country." Clearly there are a lot of people that think the country owes them.

Here is what you can do for your country, what everyone can do for our country. Listen. God gave you two ears, and only one mouth. That is the proportionate way to use them. I suggest you listen first, let the other person have

their say. Actively listen. Don't be thinking about your response while they are speaking. Don't try to speak over them. Just listen, intently. It is not your turn to speak until they are done. Then take a deep breath and speak your mind. If they try to speak over you, remind them that you gave them the opportunity to say all that they wanted to say, and they will be able to speak again when you are through. I have been able to resolve many issues, and conflicts by doing this. And I believe this is what our country needs right now, less blaming and more conversations.

As a member of the Sons of the American Legion, you may, or may not, have served in the Military. But, in essence

you are serving now. The Preamble to the Constitution of the Sons of the American Legion gives us a list of duties that we are to strive to achieve. It ends with the purpose of the S.A.L. being; "To adopt in letter and spirit all of the great principles for which the American Legion stands, and to assist in carrying on, for God and Country." To assist, you must be active, not just pay your dues.

On November 1st the Sons will host the monthly Steak Night. Please consider volunteering for this fundraising event. It would be great to see some new faces helping out. You are needed, and you will be greatly appreciated. If you are able to help, text me (Russ Belz) at 515-460-8509.

Clubroom News

Greetings from the clubroom! Fall is here and football season is upon us. We again this year have the NFL Sunday ticket so if your looking for somewhere to watch your favorite team, come to the clubroom! The Cyclones are off to a great start so come cheer them on with your friends at the post. The Post will open half an hour before game time if its not during our regular hours. Bring a munchie to share and watch the game with friends.

Just wanted to shout out everyone that volunteered at the Rummage Rampage in late July/ early August. You helped raise over \$1300 for the clubroom to help pay bills and keep up with repairs. We appreciate you all very much and things would not be possible without you.

Here are the Curbside meals for October:

Oct 1-Lasagna

Oct 8-Burger Night

Oct 15-Ham Balls

Oct 22-Hot Beef Sandwich

Oct 29-Chicken Fried Steak

Call the Post anytime after 2pm on Wednesday to order your meal. Don't forget to check the weekly update for the full menu.

Save the Date: We will be having the John Schomaker Memorial Fish Fry on Friday, November 7th. Mark your calendars!



Thanks to all that helped around the clubroom this past month and covered for me so I can make all my daughter's events. I appreciate you all so much!! Tom Fowler, Julie Rinard, Ken Woodley, Rodger VanVoorhis, Paul Madson, Rick Lippard, Bill Donovan, Russ and Vicki Belz, Marty and Jo Kelly, Colten Christiansen, Mindy Schill, Greg Hobbs, Mike and Sandy Deacon.

50-50 Raffle

The monthly 50-50 Raffle continues to raise money and help with post projects. Recently the proceeds were used to make repairs to the sprinkler system that protects the post in case of fire.

That sprinkler system also reduces the



cost of insurance for the post.

Paul Madson won last month's raffle. He received winnings of \$175.50. It's not the Powerball but it is still worth investing. You know your purchase will help the Post and you may win!!

News From Social Committee

You may have noticed on your last trip to the grocery store that the price of food continues to rise. The Social Committee has, and we were hoping it would soon turn around. Unfortunately it hasn't and we are faced with a couple tough decisions for 2025-26. We know how popular our Steak Dinner Nights are, and we feel it's important to keep them.



However the latest price of beef and produce is requiring we raise prices this year. We've held off, hoping this wouldn't be necessary, but if you've walked by the meat counter lately, then you know our dilemma.

We've shopped other suppliers sev-

eral times in the last year looking for ways to cut costs wherever possible, and felt that the quality and inconsistency of steaks and produce month to month was just too extreme. We've chosen to support local businesses wherever possible, and feel that compared to local chain restaurants we are still able to be a reasonable option for dinner.

On behalf of the Social Committee, understand we aren't making much of a profit, and that's not the intent. We feel a good meal at a fair price is our focus, but the fellowship and the event itself is important as well, and we hope you all will continue to support your Legion Family every month.

Legion Riders

Hello Legion Riders. October is here, there is no need to put the bike away just yet, there will be plenty of opportunities to ride in the next couple of months, let's hope the weather cooperates.

The last can drive for the season will take place October 18th. Can drives will start back in the Spring. If you have cans over the winter, you can take them out to the redemption site on West Lincoln Way, let them know they are for Wreaths Across America.

Please make sure you take the time to fill out your consolidated report, all riding miles and time you spent volunteering can be put on the report. It is important to log your activity to show what we have done the past year. If you have any questions, please let me know and I can help you out.

Our last fund raiser for the year will be October 25th. We will be helping with the City of Ames Leaf Day at the recovery area on Freel drive. More information will be put out later.

Have a great month, be vigilant, be safe, and ride safe.

Service Office Grant

The Iowa House of Representatives in 2024 UNANIMOUSLY passed HF 1000. This legislation would create a \$250,000 matching grant that The American Legion and other VSOs could draw on to increase the level of service they provide to veterans with claims to the VA.

Now that legislation needs to come back in 2026 in the Senate. There was resistance in the Senate last year that prevented passage. Now it is our time to speak with our Senators and urge them to commit to passage this year.

Why is this grant needed? The drop in membership means less dues money is available to support the service office. At the same time, need for trained service officers is growing. It is time for the state to step up and help their citizens that have been injured in service.

Why should a Senator support this legislation? First, those veterans with service-connected disabilities need the compensation to live. Second, every dollar that comes into Iowa helps the economic position of the state. The compensation is not taxable but once it is spent, that money is taxable.

Contact your Iowa Senator and ask them to support HF 1000 once the session starts. Your comrades need your help.

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

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Ames, IA

OCTOBER

<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 WINESDAY WEDNESDAY CURBSIDE MEAL LASAGNA	2 \$2 DOG NIGHT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE 6:00	3 FIREBALL FRIDAY MUNCHIES NIGHT	4 STEAK DINNER 5:00—7:00
5 YOUTH AIR RIFLE 1-3 AT IZAAK WALTON BINGO	6 WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA 5:30 LEGION RIDERS 6:30	7 TACO TUESDAY AUXILIARY REGULAR 6:30	8 WINESDAY WEDNESDAY 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 WINESDAY WEDNESDAY CURBSIDE MEAL HAM BALLS	16 \$2 DOG NIGHT	17 FIREBALL FRIDAY MUNCHIES NIGHT	18 PAST PRESIDENT'S PARLEY 10:00
19 BINGO	20 VFW POST MEETING 7:00	21 TACO TUESDAY SOCIAL COMMITTEE 6:00	22 WINESDAY WEDNESDAY CURBSIDE MEAL HOT BEEF SANDWICH	23 \$2 DOG NIGHT 40&8	24 FIREBALL FRIDAY BAKED POTATO BAR 5:00-6:30 MUSIC BINGO 7:00-9:00	25
26 BINGO	27	28 TACO TUESDAY	29 WINESDAY WEDNESDAY CURBSIDE MEAL CHICKEN FRIED STEAK	30 \$2 DOG NIGHT	31 FIREBALL FRIDAY MUNCHIES NIGHT	