



## THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY



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

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[www.alaforveterans.org](http://www.alaforveterans.org)  
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### Bylaws Change

The Post Executive Board has approved a potential change to the Post Bylaws. In order to take effect, that change must be approved at two consecutive Post meetings. It will come up for the first consideration at the February Post meeting.

The proposed change is in Article V Section 5. Meetings and deletes "A meeting of the Executive Board shall be held before the second Thursday in August for the purpose of approving the budget(s) for the coming year and considering the Commander's appointments to various Post Committees."

That section would be replaced with: "Regular meetings of the Executive Board shall be held one (1) hour prior to the regular Post meeting each month." This change will require a 2/3 majority for passage.

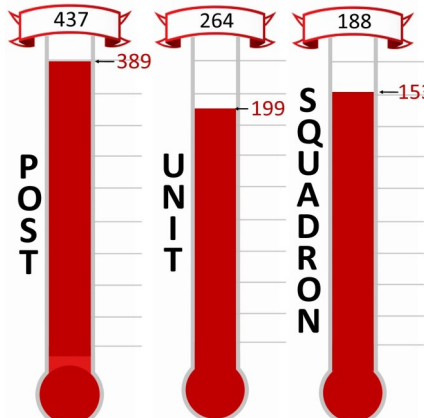
### Membership Work Paying Off

You can see from the graphs to the right that our membership people have been hard at work. The Post especially has done well having reached just under 90% of this year's goal of 437.

The Unit and Squadron have not quite reached that same level but they are working hard.

Now it is time for each of us to join them and get this work finished.

First—Have You Renewed Your Membership For 2026? If not, then just by doing that you can make that white space at the top of the thermometer a little bit smaller.



Second—Are there members of your family that are eligible but have not yet joined? That white space would get smaller for everyone of them that joins.

There is a red Join Now button at the top of the Ames Legion family webpage:

[ameslegionpost37.com/](http://ameslegionpost37.com/).

Third—Do you have neighbors that fly an American flag in their yard or from their house. Odds are that family has an eligible veteran or family member that could join. Share your reason for being a member with them and point them to the webpage.

Lets get that white space gone.

### THANK YOU FROM ADOPTED FAMILY

We wanted to say thank you to everyone who was so thoughtful toward us and blessed our family. All of you have all given us your most precious commodity: time.

Time to pick the prefect gifts and to bring them and wrap them. We are so thankful for each and every one of you. The gift cards were wonderful for



purchasing "Santa" gifts especially! I don't think we will ever forget the kindness we've been shown and we hope to pay this kindness forward to others in

the future. We pray the Lord blesses each of you richly in the coming year.

Love and thankfulness,  
 The Cassity Family

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## Post Commander Cliff's Comments

There are moments as Commander that can stress a person more than most realize.

A year ago we had a looming mortgage refinance, a broken dumbwaiter, and a clogged sewer line all to start the new year. I know I wasn't alone in wondering "What's next"? On top of all this, what could possibly happen.

But we didn't give up and kept going, looking for the bright side, and when needed, actually being the bright side. Well here we are, welcome to 2026.

The All Hands meeting just concluded and it was filled with good news, good stories, and this time, good questions about what's next. If you haven't heard, the fundraising drive for the mortgage

was truly a family event. I never dreamed it would be as successful as it turned out to be.

With all of YOUR help, we raised \$24,063.71 dollars, reducing our refinance amount to \$31,589.60. We have a 36-month note and the Legion Finance Committee will be working on the best way to bring that in early, and begin to save for some much needed repairs that we know are coming.

Our home, 225 Main St., is showing its age in places, and there will likely always be something coming up for repair. When something does come up, I hope to have the post in a better position in the future than where we've been in the past. None of this can happen

without the dedication of our membership. From the bottom of my heart, **Thank You.**

There are some positive changes coming, a new point of sale system will be online soon. This will bring us to a much more efficient canteen operation.

The mobile post information screen is online. With this screen comes a request. If you have pictures of events, please share them. Feel free to send them to me and I'll incorporate them. Too much of what we do can go unnoticed, and as they say a picture is worth 1000 words. Let's begin 2026 with the attitude that 225 Main is our home, and what we achieve as a family is truly special.

## Unit President Jodi's Comments

February is the shortest but one of the busiest months of the year! As always, if you have a friend you haven't seen at a meeting lately, please give them a call and just check in. This is a great time to gather and work on projects for our veterans. It could be working on a Quilt of Valor, making poppies, working on the loom, making busy bags or any other project you may have.

We also have Mid-Winter conference February 13-15. This is a great way to find out more about the American Legion Auxiliary as well as many other programs from the family. Mid-Winter holds a programs fair and also one of my favorite events is the Oratorical con-

test. If you can't make it to the conference sessions, I suggest trying to come down to Des Moines on Sunday morning to watch these amazing young people. Ideas are meant to be shared and that's what we do at these sessions. There is a small registration fee of \$10 paid online or at the door.

A special thank you to so many people who helped with our steak night in January. We were a busy crew, but it sure was nice to see our friends out and about even in the cold months! It is only because of our dedicated volunteers that they are a success. If you haven't worked a steak night and want to donate some time to perform any of the

pieces for running this dinner in April, just let me know. We also appreciate those of you that come in to eat with us. Seeing our friends is great especially when it gets dark and cold outside!

Lastly, as I look at this month and consider the topic of Americanism, one of the ideas I hear is to teach a child the Pledge of Allegiance. If you are blessed with kids around you, maybe ask them if they know it? Let them recite it to you. Do they say it in their schools? Do you have some time to break down the meaning of the words? It is never too young to learn to love this beautiful country!

## Squadron Commander Russ's Comments

Hello everyone. It is that time again, time for the shameless plugs on behalf of the S.A.L.

First is the Steak Dinner hosted by the S.A.L. We've lined up a good group of volunteers to prepare and serve your meal. And, since Valentine's Day is the following week, we will honor the first thirty women who attend with a complimentary carnation.

The dinner will be held on February 7, with serving beginning at 5:00 pm. You can enjoy a wonderful meal with friends and family while catching the ISU women as they take on Utah. I hope to see you there, and Go Cyclones! On behalf of all of the S.A.L. members, Thank you. We appreciate all of your support.

Second is the 2026 Merit Awards for Continuing Education given by the S.A.L. Any student, who is a descendant of a Veteran, who attends Ames or

Gilbert High or is homeschooled within the Ames or Gilbert School districts, or who is a descendant of an Ames Legion Family member, who has a 2.5 GPA or better, that will graduate this spring may apply.

We give away 2 - \$1000.00 awards. The Merit Award can be used at any college, university, nursing, or trade school within the United States. Applications are available through the schools, the Ames Homeschool FB group, or at the Post.

While time is short, it is not too late. Get this information to your daughters, sons, granddaughters, grandsons, nieces, nephews, or any senior student you care about right away. The application deadline is; **Saturday, February 28, 2026 at 7:00 pm.**

Third, now that you've helped your student, you can help the S.A.L. The pro-

ceeds of the February 50/50 raffle will go to the S.A.L. to be used to fund the Merit Awards. So, in February, buy your raffle tickets early, and buy some often. On behalf of all of the S.A.L. members, Thank you. We appreciate all of your support.

At our January meeting we welcomed two new members. I think we have a pretty good group of guys that attend our meetings. The meetings are very upbeat and always have a positive exchange of ideas. Usually the meetings only last an hour, so it is not a huge time commitment. I invite you members who don't attend to come and check us out. We are meeting on February 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30. I hope to see you there.

## Clubroom News

Happy February! Hopefully you are surviving all this cold weather. If you are itching to get out of the house the clubroom is a great place to come and visit with friends. Join us for a meal, cheer on the Cyclones or your favorite team), or just to visit. We would love to see you. Remember if the Cyclones play before normal business hours the clubroom will open up half hour before start of the game.

Reminder- If you are looking for a place to have a party or an event keep the Legion in mind. Members receive a discount and it is a great way to support the Post. Call the clubroom to inquire about availability.

**Super Bowl Madness-** Join us Sunday, February 8 for the ultimate place to watch the Super Bowl. Enjoy the big game on our jumbo 110" TV. Please bring a munchie to share. Come watch the game with us!



**Sunday, February 15-Daytona 500 party.** Join us NASCAR's biggest race. Bring a munchie to share and get in on the fun.

## Air Rifle Club Upgrades

The air rifle club continues to improve their marksmanship skills. Several members received patches marking their progress as they "level-up". In addition, we had 11 members compete in this year's American Legion National Postal Match. The top winners of this nation-wide match will be invited to compete later this year at the National Championship in Hillsdale, Michigan.

Our program was also the beneficiary of



### Soup Contest

Do you make an awesome soup? Enter it into our contest. We are asking that our members help with this fundraiser. All soups will be entered into the contest for a chance to win one of three places. All winners will receive a prize plus bragging rights for the whole year. We ask that entrants have their soup at the post by 5:45pm on the 20th, and also ask that you bring whatever compliments your soup the best (i.e. crackers, cheese, bread). Everyone is welcome to enter!! Free will donation will entitle all members to enjoy all the many soups provided by contestants. All proceeds benefit the Building Repairs Fund.



Thanks again to all who make everything possible for clubroom events. Your help is very much appreciated. Sandy and Mike Deacon, Greg Hobbs, Marty Kelly, Tom Fowler, Ken Woodley, Bill Donovan, Russ and Vicki Belz, Julie Rinard, Colten Christensen, Rodger VanVoorhis.

two very generous donations. The Swisher Sharpshooters (from the Swisher, Iowa Post) donated \$100 to our program. We thank them for their support! We also received a donation from an individual of three new Crosman Challenger air rifles and accessories - a value of \$2000! This is a tremendous validation of the value of American Legion youth programs - when we sponsor them, people will support them generously.

## Juniors in Action

The Junior Camp attendees deeply appreciate the generous support from January's 50/50 fundraiser, which will help them attend camp this summer! Thank you to everyone who participated and purchased tickets.

Avary and Neveah are also working hard to help raise additional funds for their camp fees. One of their efforts includes selling heart-shaped lollipops, individually wrapped, for \$1 each. If you'd like to support them, please contact the Auxiliary—senior members will gladly help connect you. There are 640

lollipops available in six delicious flavors!



On January 11, the Juniors hosted their first fundraising dinner for Bingo participants under the guidance of President Jodi and Jamie Barker. Thanks to family sponsorship of the meal costs, the girls earned \$75 that evening. It is a learning experience for them to understand the costs associated with attending camp where they

## Legion Riders



At our January meeting we elected new officers, they are as follows:

Director – Doug Sargent

Vice Director – Rick Hackett

Treasurer – Jodi Mann

Secretary – Denise Sargent

Membership – Sandy Deacon

Chaplain – Mike Deacon

Sgt. At Arms – Bill Couser & John Valine

Historian – Banita Deaton

Road Captains – Randy Johns & Rob Vandyke

We received some exciting news from the National Legion Riders. A ride from Pittsburgh, PA., to Washington D.C. is planned for the Fourth of July. More information to come.

A meeting to plan the first State Legacy ride is scheduled to happen at the Mid-Winter meeting. Please plan to attend the Riders meeting if you would like to help plan this ride.

Other than that information we are anxiously waiting for Spring and the new riding season. Please be safe and keep your head on a swivel in these crazy times.

learn about friendship, leadership, the United States flag, patriotism and community service projects.

Congratulations to our Juniors—keep up the great work!



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

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## FEBRUARY

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
1 YOUTH AIR RIFLE 1-3 AT IZAAK WALTON  BINGO	2 WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA 5:30  LEGION RIDERS 6:30	3 TOASTED CHEESE & SOUP  AUXILIARY REGULAR 6:30	4 WINESDAY WEDNESDAY  CURBSIDE MEAL LASAGNA	5 \$2 DOG NIGHT  OPERATIONS COMMITTEE 6:00	6 FIREBALL FRIDAY  MUNCHIES NIGHT	7   STEAK DINNER 5:00—7:00
8 SUPER BOWL PARTY BINGO	9	10 TACO TUESDAY  SAL REGULAR 6:30	11 WINESDAY WEDNESDAY  CURBSIDE MEAL VALENTINE DINNER	12 \$2 DOG NIGHT  LEGION EXEC BOARD 6:00 REGULAR 7:00	13 FIREBALL FRIDAY  MUNCHIES NIGHT	14
15 DAYTONA 500 PARTY BINGO	16  VFW POST MEETING 7:00	17 TACO TUESDAY  SOCIAL COMMITTEE 6:00	18 WINESDAY WEDNESDAY  CURBSIDE MEAL MEATLOAF	19 \$2 DOG NIGHT	20 FIREBALL FRIDAY  SOUP CONTEST	21  PAST PRESIDENT'S PARLEY 10:00
22  BINGO	23	24 TACO TUESDAY	25 WINESDAY WEDNESDAY  CURBSIDE MEAL FRIED CHICKEN	26 \$2 DOG NIGHT  40&8	27 FIREBALL FRIDAY BAKED POTATO BAR 5:00-6:30 MUSIC BINGO 7:00-9:30	28
	Find us on Facebook at <b>American Legion Family of Ames, IA Post 37</b>					