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Ames Legion Family In Action

Proposed Bylaws Change for Final Approval

The American Legion executive board and the general membership meetings in February approved a proposed change to the Post Bylaws to create a Finance Committee. In order for that change to receive final approval, it must be approved at the March Post meeting. The proposed change is posted below. All new wording is in italics while the old wording that remains is in the normal font. No wording has been removed. Article VI shall be renumbered.

Article VI

Duties and powers of standing committees

Section 1 Standing Committees

There will be the following standing committees of the Post, the membership of which shall be appointed by the Post Commander and approved by the Executive Board: Operations Committee, Membership Committee, Social Committee, Bingo Committee, *and Finance Committee*. An additional committee known as the Life Member Committee shall consist of the Honorary Life Members of the Post. Each of the foregoing committees except Membership shall be responsible for selection of it's Chairman and Secretary subject to the approval of the Executive Board. The Commander may appoint such special committees as deemed necessary.

Section 6 Finance Committee

The Finance Committee shall be composed of three (3) to five (5) Legion members in good standing serving three (3) year terms on a staggered basis and the Finance Officer as a non-voting member. Each year, the newly elected Commander shall appoint no more than two (2) members to the Finance Committee to fill vacancies. It shall be the responsibility of the Finance Committee to provide short and long term financial oversight for the Post, including budgeting and financial planning, review of monthly financial balance sheets and profit and loss statements, make recommendations on short and long term investments, develop for approval by the Executive Board and implement financial policies and internal controls, recommend asset allocation and monitor/oversee the Post's financial reporting and accountability policies and practices.

ByLaws Change for Consideration

ARTICLE V. DUTIES AND POWERS OF EXECUTIVE BOARD

Section 5. Meetings

Regular meetings of the Executive Board shall be held one (1) hour prior to the regular Post meeting each month. 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 the various Post committees. Other meetings of the Executive Board may be called by the Commander or by any three members of the Executive Board either by oral, written or other notice, not later than the day prior to the date set for such meeting and such notice shall state the purpose of such meeting. At any meeting of the Executive Board a majority of the members of the Executive Board shall constitute a quorum. Any action of the Executive Board must be authorized by the affirmative vote of a majority of the members thereof present.

For the proposed change in the wording of Article V, Section 5 to the left, a new first sentence (in italics) is recommended for addition.

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Post Commander Cliff's Comments

In this month's newsletter you'll read about what the Legion Family is doing. Some things are new, like the club room changes, and some are trusted fixtures of the Ames Post.

Recently, I remembered something from a long time ago. You see, as a young lad I remember wanting to fly a kite one spring so badly I never stopped asking about it. So finally, my brother took me out into the pasture with a kite and roll of string and before long he left me there to fly my kite. I watched it zoom left and right, going higher, but after a while I got tired.

Now, how exactly do you stop flying a kite? There was nobody around to help me, but I couldn't just let it go, that's all I knew for sure. So, I stood there holding

a roll of string, on a mission not to lose my kite. Before long I began to wind the string in. It seemed like forever before I walked back in the house to the surprise of everyone, kite under my arm.

Why do I tell you this? Well, I was faced with a decision that before I had to make it, I would have thought it would have been an easy one to decide. Last fall I was offered a chance to take on something with the Riders I never thought I'd have a chance to do. I found out though; to do it well, it might require me to reassess my current duties as Post Commander.

I'd like to think that my tenure so far has been a success. I've learned so much and feel I have affected change for the better. I still believe the Ames American

Legion is capable of so much more, and that our members feel the same way.

The mission of the Legion Family in Ames is reawakening in a 21st century way, and I couldn't be prouder. That little kid with the kite didn't quit, and neither did I. It was a chance, versus a responsibility. I turned down the new role, choosing instead to stay and take what I've started to the best conclusion I can.

I believe Ames needs the American Legion, now as much as ever. I appreciate all the kind words I've gotten, and the hard questions as well, because they remind me that nothing easy is worth having. Together we will bring the Legion Family to Ames and bring Ames to the Legion Family. Thank you.

Unit President Jodi's Comments

We have had some nice weather for our Mid-Winter Conference this year. The Programs Fair was outstanding. There were tables set up to learn about Membership, Poppies, Education, Girl State, just to name a few of the wonderful programs the Auxiliary has to offer.

We met and heard from our National President Pam Ray. Also we heard from Lanea Stovers founder of The Final Salute, a nonprofit organization that provides, unclaimed and abandoned veterans with proper military burials. The group has laid over 84 veterans to rest at the Iowa Veterans Cemetery.

There was a silent auction for Girls State. They had many wonderful items such as homemade breads and

cookies, gift baskets, hand sewn bags, blankets, and so much more.

Then came the time to count all those pennies and other money each District collected for the penny war. Some of us got comfortable and down to business. It took six of us and three hours to count all of the money collected. We ended up with over 4,300 collected. What a great job and fun way to raise funds for Department. The bucket at the post collected 57.75 all in pennies. Thanks to all that brought in your pennies.

March is another busy month as we have our Story County meeting on the 19th at 6:30 at the Story City Community Center. Then we have our District Conference on the 21st at 8:30am at

the Maranatha Baptist church in Grimes. We have our spring Bake Sale on the 28th. That starts at 8am. I know it's early this year. I would like to thank in advance all our volunteers. If you would like to donate goodies for the bake sale please bring them to the post Friday March 27th by 6pm.

We want to report on all the wonderful things people have been doing. Please remember to write down the hours you have spent on different projects throughout the year and turn them into Sandy, who will then put them in the correct categories for us. If you can't catch Sandy drop and e-mail of hours to amesunit37@gmail.com.

Squadron Commander Russ's Comments

The S.A.L. has just hosted the monthly Steak Dinner. I can't help but appreciate the support we get from the Legion Family, and the community. Of course they come for the good meal. (If you haven't been to one, it's your loss. PS. There is another one on March 7.) But after their meal, so many continue to sit and visit, and enjoy more coffee, or a drink from the bar. Some are renewing old acquaintances, and some are making new friends. Either way, it is heartwarming to see the smiles and hear the laughter of fellowship.

We had a good crowd, and received many compliments on the quality of the meals. For that I have to thank the kitchen staff, all volunteers. They are a hard-working group that takes great pride in the quality of the meals they put

together for you to enjoy. I want to personally thank Doug and Kathy for their preparation work, and Tom, Mike, Jane, Keven, and Randy B. for their cooking and cleaning in the kitchen.

This was the first month that the new P.O.S. system was used for order taking. It went very smoothly, and we have Jodi and Bill Donovan to thank for that. They have put in a lot of hours, away from the Legion, setting up the programs, inputting the menus, prices, discounts for specials, etc. Their hard work will be very helpful in increasing efficiency and profits for the clubroom for years to come. On behalf of the entire Legion Family, thank you.

As a result of that, our servers and expediter this month had to learn and implement the new system. They did a

great job. Thank you, Sandy, Jo, Rachel, and Dave. This was the first month we dedicated a person to promote sales for the 50/50 raffle during the dinner. It was successful in getting the month off to a great start. Thank you, Cort. And I would be remiss if I didn't thank the two gentlemen who welcomed everyone to the dinner, and took care of the financials. Good job Randy F. and Keven, Thank you.

We are already planning our next fundraiser, the Biscuits and Gravy Breakfast, scheduled with the Auxiliary Bake Sale. They will be held on March 28th. Serving begins at 7:00 am for you early birds, and runs until 11:00 am for the rest of us. I hope to see you there.

Clubroom News

March is almost here so Spring is hopefully just around the corner. We are excited about warmer weather and more sunshine! We have lots of fun events going on the clubroom this month. We hope you can join us for one of our Wednesday meals or music bingo night! Don't forget you can catch all the college basketball tournament action in the clubroom. If Iowa State plays an early game for any tournament, we will open so you can watch the game here. Watch our Facebook page for any updates! We hope to see you soon!

The crew will be here Friday, March 27 for a Fish Fry!! Join us from 5-7 for a great meal. Then stay for music bingo that starts at 7pm. Hope you can join us!!

Here are the Curbside Meals for March:

March 4-Ham Balls

March 11-Pork Loin

March 18-Corned Beef and cabbage

March 25-Creamy Tuscan chicken



Kudos to everyone that has helped around the clubroom this month. You make all the meals and events possible.

Mike and Sandy Deacon, Russ and Vicki Belz, Julie Rinard, Bill Donovan, Colten Christiansen, Ken Woodley, Cliff Barker, Addison Donovan, Marty and Jo Kelly, Greg Hobbs and Rodger Van-Voorhis.

JSSP Season Conclusion

The Youth Air Rifle Season that started last September will conclude at the end-of-season banquet, March 22. The banquet celebrates the shooter's accomplishments with awards and pizza. March 15 will be the club's last regular shooting session.

Several from our club will represent our Post at the March 14th Department of Iowa in-person match, held at Camp Dodge. Our group typically shoots at 10:30am. Look for more info in the

weekly announcements ahead of that date.

Also, our club this year is responsible for providing canteen services (simple lunch items, refreshments, etc.) for the parents and shooters participating in the match. We need a couple of volunteers to help run it. If you are interested in helping, please contact Cort Pahl, CentralIowaJSSP@gmail.com.

Legion Fights for Veterans Benefits

American Legion leadership at both the state and national levels have taken actions regarding proposed changes in veterans benefits.



In the last two weeks, the VA published a proposed change that would have changed the service-connected disability evaluation process. In the new process, evaluation of the disability for rating would have been done while the veteran was taking medication to treat the disability or reduce the symptoms rather than evaluation being done without medication.

The American Legion, along with several other VSOs, opposed that change for a variety of reasons. As a result, VA Secretary Collins announced that the proposed would not be put into effect.



In Iowa, The American Legion is leading the fight against veterans legislation that would change how resources are allocated to the county offices as well as the training that those county officials receive. Those changes were proposed by Governor Reynolds and the Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs without any consultation with the stakeholders. We believe those changes would hurt the county's efforts and are strongly opposing that legislation.

IN BOTH CASES, YOUR MEMBERSHIP KEEPS OUR VOICE STRONG.

Legion Riders

Hello all, the days are getting longer, the temps are getting warmer, the new riding season is on its way. Some of us have already taken a couple of short rides when possible. It sure feels great after the months of snow and cold to have your knees in the breeze. If you haven't already, now would be a great time to get your pre-season oil change and service scheduled. Don't let the first ride end on the side of the road.

The Riders are looking at a busy Summer this year. Currently we have Memorial Day parade, 4th of July parade, and dinner rides planned for the 2nd and 4th. Sundays May through September. As more rides come in the list will grow. The first can drive is scheduled for April 18th. 9 to 11 am to raise money for Wreaths Across America.

Something new this year, the Legion Riders will be holding the first state Legacy Ride July 10-12 to raise money for the Veterans and Children's fund. This ride has been set up to hit all 9 districts in Iowa. It is a pop in pop out or you can ride the whole thing if you choose. More info to come.

Please have a safe Spring, be vigilant, and we will see you on the road!

40&8 Nurses Training

Story County Voiture 285 is holding a fundraiser for their Nurses Training Scholarship program on March 21 from Noon to 4.

Their Nurses Training Fund is used to provide scholarships to nursing students from Story County.

They will be serving shrimp jambalaya and cornbread from noon to 4 and asking for a free will offering that will go to the nurses training fund.

Add that to your calendar and remember that March Madness will be on the screens at the Post. See you there.

Sandwich Night

Tuesday night is now Sandwich Night at the Post. What do you suppose Jodi and the crew have in mind? Maybe grilled cheese? Bet it is not just a bologna sandwich.

Only one way to find out. Stop in on Tuesday night after work.



Guessing it will be nice surprise.

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MARCH

<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 SANDWICH NIGHT AUXILIARY REGULAR 6:30	4 WINESDAY WEDNESDAY CURBSIDE MEAL HAM BALLS	5 \$2 DOG NIGHT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE 6:00	6 FIREBALL FRIDAY MUNCHIES NIGHT	7 STEAK DINNER 5:00—7:00
8 BINGO	9	10 SANDWICH NIGHT SAL REGULAR 6:30	11 WINESDAY WEDNESDAY CURBSIDE MEAL PORK LOIN	12 \$2 DOG NIGHT LEGION EXEC BOARD 6:00 REGULAR 7:00	13 FIREBALL FRIDAY MUNCHIES NIGHT	14 DEPT JSSP MATCH @ CAMP DODGE PAST PRESIDENT'S PARLEY 10:00
15 BINGO	16 VFW POST MEETING 7:00	17 SANDWICH NIGHT SOCIAL COMMITTEE 6:00	18 WINESDAY WEDNESDAY CURBSIDE MEAL CORNED BEEF & CABBAGE	19 \$2 DOG NIGHT STORY COUNTY	20 FIREBALL FRIDAY MUNCHIES NIGHT	21 6TH DISTRICT CONFERENCE 40&8 NURSE TRN FUNDRAISER 12-4
22 BINGO	23	24 SANDWICH NIGHT	25 WINESDAY WEDNESDAY CURBSIDE MEAL CREAMY TUSCAN CHICKEN	26 \$2 DOG NIGHT 40&8	27 FIREBALL FRIDAY FISH FRY 5:00-7:00 MUSIC BINGO 7:00-9:00	28 SAL BISCUITS & GRAVY ALA BAKE SALE 7:00-11:00
29 BINGO	30	31 SANDWICH NIGHT		Find us on Facebook at American Legion Family of Ames, IA Post 37		