



Post Commander: Dylan Ehlen
Unit President: Jo Kelly
Squadron Commander: Russ Belz
Chapter Director: Doug Sargent

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

Vol XLV, No 3

October 2026

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

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

Auxiliary Membership Eligibility Expands

At the 2026 American Legion National Convention, delegates adopted new membership eligibility language for the American Legion Auxiliary thus expanding eligibility and allowing more family members to join the ALA.

The Legion has authority over the ALA's membership eligibility; this language change allows more people into our organization - strengthening our ability to better serve our veterans, military, and their families.

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

Section 2. Membership in the American Legion Auxiliary shall be limited to:

grandparents, parents, siblings, spouses, and direct or adopted descendants within two degrees of consanguinity of members of the American Legion; and

grandparents, parents, siblings, spouses, and direct or adopted descendants within two degrees of consanguinity of all servicemembers who served in either of the following peri-



ods: April 6, 1917, to November 1, 1918, and any time after December 7, 1941, who, being a citizen of the United States at the time of their entry therein served on active duty in the Armed Forces of any or the governments associated with the United States during either eligibility periods and dies in

the line of duty of after honorable discharge;

grandparents, parents, siblings, spouses, and direct or adopted descendants within two degrees of consanguinity of all servicemembers who were in the Armed Forces of the United States during either of the following periods: April 6, 1917, to November 1, 1918, and any time after December 7, 1941, who served on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States during either eligibility period and died in the line of duty or after honorable discharge; and

to those women who of their own right are eligible for membership in The American Legion.

The revisions to the ALA's eligibility mentioned above allow individuals the potential to be members of both the Sons of The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary. The Legion's national judge advocate has confirmed that this dual membership does not constitute a conflict of interest with the American Legion.

Renewal Key to Membership

Each year we lose members that do not renew their membership. For each member that chooses not to renew, we wonder why?

We know there was a reason that they joined. Were they looking for something they didn't find? Is that why they left. Did they find something they didn't like? Is that why?

We hear at times that members don't want their dues to be used for the lounge. We make this promise to you!!! Dues money will NEVER be used for that. The canteen exists to give those members a place to go to socialize with other veterans and family members.

The American Legion and the Ames Post are so much more than that. You have heard of the Four Pillars; VA&R, National Security, Americanism and Children & Youth. You won't find the

lounge under any of those but you will find your dues money supporting the four pillars.

The American Legion was formed to take care of the veterans coming home from service in WW I. We still believe that our purpose is exactly that, take care of the veterans coming home from service.

Your dues money helps support our three service officers in Des Moines. Their work leads to VA benefits coming to veterans. In fact, almost 75% of the VA benefits coming into Iowa are because of them and their work.

That should be enough to convince you to renew, knowing YOU are helping our comrades in need. We stood beside them in uniform. Now we need to continue to support them.

Find that renewal notice or go online to Legion.org but renew today.



Inside this issue:

Post Commander	2
Unit President	2
Squadron Commander	2
Clubroom Events	3
Matching Fundraiser	3
Be The One Training	3
ISU Football with SVA	3

Post Commander Dylan's Comments

Ladies and Gentlemen of Post 37, as we wrap up September, I want to thank everyone that came out to show support for the 25th Anniversary ceremony of 9/11 at the Ames Veterans Memorial. We had a great turn out and I want to personally thank all of our volunteers that made it such a memorable event.

I look forward to sharing updates from our 6th District Fall Conference at our October meeting. A special thank you and round of applause goes out to our very own 1st Vice Commander John Baldwin and his volunteers. They have raised just shy of \$1500 from the Saturday morning pancake breakfasts he has put on during the course of the summer in conjunction with the Ames Farmers Market.

We would like to do a couple more before the end of the Farmers Market season but will need new volunteers to assist. Optimally, 4 volunteers are needed to put on each pancake breakfast and average volunteer hours are from 7:30am-11:30am. Those who wish to assist with pancake breakfasts going forward, please reach out to me via phone or email.

Looking forward throughout October, our first Social Dinner of the season will be held on Saturday October 3rd. Volunteers will always be needed!

Post clean up will take place on Saturday October 10th starting at 8am and runs roughly until noon. More hands make less work.

The post is partnering with the Iowa State Student Veterans Association (SVA) to take several elderly less capable/mobile Legion members to an Iowa State Cyclone football game on November 14th. Should you be interested please reach out to myself or the post as soon as possible so they can get an accurate amount of tickets.

To wrap up October, the Legion is always searching for new and exciting fundraising opportunities to show our beloved Ames community what the American Legion is all about. If you think of any ideas, please bring them forward and if you wish to share your ideas please join us during our monthly meetings held the second Thursday of every month. HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

Unit President Jo's Comments

October will be an exciting month for the Auxiliary as we will be hosting the Steak Dinner on Saturday, October 3rd. Please join us for great food and a chance to meet up with old friends (and maybe make a few new ones).

October is also Membership month. You should have received a letter or email asking you to renew your membership. Dues are still \$40/

year. Thank you for renewing and we hope to see you at our meeting Tuesday, October 6th @ 6:30. Our meeting usually last less than an hour and then we socialize over dessert - yum!

Speaking of membership - *NEWS FLASH* - membership eligibility has expanded allowing more family members to join the ALA. Look for more information on the front page.

Downtown Trick-or-Treat will be Friday, October 30th from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM. We will be handing out bags of animal cookies again this year. Of course costumes are a must! This is also the evening city wide Trick-or-Treat in Ames so be aware of those kiddos who are out haunting for candy and may not be watching where they run.

Squadron Commander Russ's Comments

Hello again. It is nice to be back to fall weather, and football (my favorite sport).

As I am writing this, I have just returned from the 9/11 Memorial Ceremony the Legion hosted. Kudos to Commander Ehlen and US Senate candidate Ashley Hinson for their remarks.

Correct me if I'm wrong, but the 9/11 attacks were only the second time the U.S. has been attacked in an act of war, on our own soil. Pearl Harbor being the first.

This morning's ceremony brought back a lot of memories, and emotions. The silver lining on that very dark cloud was the way the country

came together in our response. Patriotism was not dead, just dormant. The 9/11 attacks woke Patriotism up, and for a while it grew.

I think it was country singer Toby Keith who said, "You can never go wrong being Patriotic." We, the Legion Family, need to lead the way in bringing new life to Patriotism.

Think for a minute, and ask yourself these questions; Do people see my patriotism? How can I better show that I believe, that with all it's problems, the U.S.A. is still the greatest country in the world? What can I do to more proudly live a patriotic life?

And speaking of remembering, on October 23rd, the John Schomaker Memorial Fish Fry will be held at the Legion. I think it is awesome that his family is keeping his memory alive by honoring him in this way. My wife and I are looking forward to it. We'll see you there.

One last thing, the S.A.L. Matching Funds fundraiser is in progress. Check out where we're at in the related article elsewhere in this newsletter. Remember, make the check payable to the S.A.L., and on the memo line, write "Matching Funds". Your support is very much appreciated. Thank you!

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' season has started 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 just under \$1000 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 7-Chicken Fried Steak

Oct 14-Meatloaf

Oct 21-Chicken Enchilada's

Oct 28-Hand Breaded Chicken Strips

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, Oct 23rd. Mark your calendars! We hope you can join us in remembering John and raising money for the Post.



Kudos-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!! Julie Rinard, Ken Woodley, Rodger VanVoorhis, Paul Madson, Bill Donovan, Russ and Vicki Belz, Marty and Jo Kelly, Colten Christiansen, Jodi Mann, Greg Hobbs, Mike and Sandy Deacon.

Be The One—Help Prevent Suicide



A "Be The One" training event will be held online on October 15th from 7:00 – 9:00 PM. This training session will present the recently updated OPR developed by Columbia University. Whether you want training for the first time, or wish to update yourself, here is your opportunity.

The link to log in for the training is:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C054FA9AA2EA3FAC16-65831786-ames>

ISU Football with Student Veterans Association

The Student Veterans Association at Iowa State has offered to host veterans at the Iowa State Football game on November 14th. This game is typically Iowa State Football's annual tribute to veterans.

The SVA has requested a head count in order to arrange for the necessary number of tickets. Legionnaires who served



prior to 9/11 and are interested in accepting this generous offer from the SVA are asked to e-mail the Post Adjutant at dmac-crea@gmail.com or call 515-450-0773 before October 10th. The SVA has indicated that they will make

every effort to accommodate all requests, but make no guarantees.

SAL Matching Fundraiser

Last month the S.A.L. announced a matching funds fundraiser to help cover the maintenance expenses of our Post home. The first two projects that need to be completed, as determined by necessity, are work on the main sewer drain line, and repairs to the fire suppression (sprinkler) system. They need to be addressed immediately. Should the sewer line fail, or the sprinkler system fail to pass inspection, we would be required to close our building until the repairs were made and inspections passed.

Take a second to think about that. We would not be allowed to have meetings, the Club Room would be closed, no income, no socializing. No Steak Dinners, Wednesday Night Meals, No Fundraisers, No Bingo. How would we meet our financial obligations; Mortgage payments, Insurance, Utilities, etc.

Your donation is tax deductible through our 50.c.19 non-profit tax status. If you are able to contribute, simply make your check out to the "Sons of the American Legion" and put "Matching Funds" on the memo line. You can mail it to the S.A.L. at 225 Main St. Ames, IA 50010, or drop it off at the Post. We will send you a receipt for your donation for your tax purposes. This matching-funds offer ends February 1, 2027.

The first \$7000.00 we receive will be matched by the S.A.L. to become \$14,000.00. This will be a great start to reaching our maintenance needs. Any funds over the \$7000.00 will still be used for this project, they just won't be matched. If we go beyond our \$40,000.00 needed for this project, the funds will be kept for our next maintenance project. They include tuckpointing and window replacement on the front of the building, repairs/replacement of the roof.



As I write this on 9/17, we have received \$700.00 in donations to this project. That is 1/10th of the way to our goal. No contribution is too small, or too large. Your generosity is greatly and sincerely appreciated.

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NON PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
Permit 147
Ames, IA

OCTOBER

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
YOUTH AIR RIFLE 1-3 AT IZAAK WALTON	 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 CHICKEN FRIED STEAK	8 \$2 DOG NIGHT LEGION EXEC BOARD 6:00 REGULAR 7:00	9 FIREBALL FRIDAY MUNCHIES NIGHT	10 POST CLEANUP 8 AM—NOON
11 BINGO	12	13 TACO TUESDAY SAL REGULAR 6:30	14 WINESDAY WEDNESDAY CURBSIDE MEAL MEATLOAF	15 \$2 DOG NIGHT	16 FIREBALL FRIDAY MUNCHIES NIGHT	17 PAST PRESIDENT'S PARLEY 10:00
18 BINGO	19	20 TACO TUESDAY SOCIAL COMMITTEE 6:00	21 WINESDAY WEDNESDAY CURBSIDE MEAL CHICKEN ENCHILADA	22 \$2 DOG NIGHT 40&8	23 FIREBALL FRIDAY SCHOMAKER MEMORIAL FISH FRY 5:00-7:00	24
25 BINGO	26	27 TACO TUESDAY	28 WINESDAY WEDNESDAY CURBSIDE MEAL CHICKEN STRIP	29 \$2 DOG NIGHT	30 FIREBALL FRIDAY PULLED PORK SANDWICH 5:30-7 MUSIC BINGO 7-9	31