THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY

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

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225 Main Street
Ames, IA 50010
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www.legion.org
www.alaforveterans.org
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Ames Legion Family In Action

EXERCISE YOUR CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT - VOTE

On November 3rd each of us has the opportunity to exercise one of our constitutional rights; the right to vote.

This year, perhaps more than any year in the past few decades, the outcome of the election on the national, state and local levels, will shape the course our country, state and community follow for the next few years. Look past all of the ugly campaign rhetoric and take a hard look at each candidate; evaluate their record and what they are standing up for and then cast your vote for the individual or individuals that you truly believe will effectively maintain our hard fought rights and benefits, promote what you believe in and act in the best interests of us all at the local, state and national level.

The Legion Family encourages you to go vote and let your voice be heard. It is a basic right that is a pillar of the American Legion and what we stand for.

Quilts of Valor to be Awarded

Two Quilts of Valor will be awarded on November 12 prior to the regular Post meeting. They will be awarded to Randy Breyfogle and Norman Hockett, both members of the Post.

Quilts of Valor was formed to recognize and honor “those who have been touched by war”. That includes everyone who has served in the military regardless of their duty location. Over 450,000 quilts have been awarded.

Student Veterans – Ruck March for Charity

The ISU Student Veterans of American chapter is sponsoring a Ruck March for Charity. The march will be November 7 at Stuart Smith Park starting at 10AM. It will end at the same location.

The charity for the march is American Legion Post #37. Entry fee will be a free will donation.

Use the QR code to the right to register. If more information is needed, contact Tyler McDowell at (515)408-7519 or by email at tylermcdll@iastate.edu.

Post Commander Dylan's Comments

As we start November, my first thought is Veterans Day.

Veterans are the bedrock of the Legion family. November 11th, 1918 or Armistice Day as it was originally named, sparked a day that has meant so much to the military community. Congress passed Armistice Day as a Federal Holiday as of 1938 making it known as a day dedicated to world peace.

It wasn't until President Dwight D. Eisenhower that it changed to Veterans Day in 1954. Memorial Day is a day to honor those that are no longer with us, but Veterans Day is for all of us still here today. Whether you served in the Pacific during Vietnam or Korea, in the Middle East during the Global War on Terror, or never left the United States during your time in service, every single veteran made sacrifices.

We left our mothers and fathers, husbands and wives, sons and daughters, and friends to serve a higher purpose and protect our country from enemies both foreign and domestic. Some of us fight battles everyday following our time in service. If anyone ever struggles with what happened then or what is happening now, I beg you to reach out to someone...anyone...because I would much rather be woken up at 2am any day of the week then have to add another name to remember on Memorial Day.

Everyone has a story and I for one am always willing to listen if you have a story you need to tell and get off your chest.

Just a little housekeeping. Thank you to everyone that came out to help at our post clean up day last month! Social Steak Dinner night is November 7th, as well as the SVA Ruck. Gold Star memorial Hall at Iowa State University is having a ceremony from 4:15-6:30pm Monday November 9th. Flags will be going up on Main Street Wednesday November 10th at 5pm and coming down at 5pm on Friday November 12th.

Unit President Jo's Comments



Our October meeting was well attended and we had three guest speakers. Kim Dixon, Past Department President, was there to give an award to Avary Jones who is this years Central Division Rising Star. Sherri Rosener, 6th District President, was also in attendance and spoke briefly about her goals for the coming year.

The Gold Star Hall ceremony will be held Monday, November 9th at 4:15. The Hall is in the ISU Memorial Union. This year 4 Iowa veterans will be honored - 2 from World War II, and 2 from the Viet Nam war. All are invited to attend.

The Ames Patriotic Council Veterans Day Observance will be held at the City Auditorium on Wednesday, November 11th at 11:00. Avary Jones and Neveah Johnson will be leading the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Juniors are busy making dog pull toys to give to animal shelters. They are looking for donations of fleece. They are also fundraising by selling America's Favorite Cookies in the form of frozen cookie dough. This is great to have on hand for the upcoming holiday season.

Our next Auxiliary meeting will be Tuesday, November 3rd at 6:30. Please have a safe and happy Thanksgiving.

Squadron Commander Russ's Comments

First things first. This is the month we each have the opportunity to have our voices heard. Of course, I'm talking about voting, on November 3rd, or before. Voting is a sacred right, earned through the dedication and sacrifices of our service men and women. This is the best way you can show that you still care about this Country. And, on November 11, you can show your appreciation for our Veterans by attending the Veterans Day Service. I know we, as an organization, and as individuals, show our appreciation throughout the year, so maybe bring a non-Legion Family member with you to the service. God Bless America, and our Veterans.

I would like to thank everyone that showed up to help spruce up the Post on October 10th. We had a hard-working crew, and we got a lot of work done. The Post looks more welcoming and inviting to our members, and those who may be checking us out. Thank you; Sandy and Mike Deacon, Scott DeGroot, Stuart and Noah Helming, Dylan Ehlan, Dave Preston, and Cliff Barker. (If I have left anyone out, I apologize.)

I am proud to announce that we are almost 1/3 of the way to our Matching Funds goal. (See the related article.) The Sons are working on updating the application process for our annual Merit Awards. Look for details in the December Newsletter.

Our membership is slowly coming in. Remember, you don't have to wait to receive a reminder in the mail. You can renew your membership now. You can go on-line to the Legion website at https://www.legion.org or you can mail it, or drop it off at the Post, whichever is most convenient for you. However you do it, we appreciate your continued support. And, we hope you will consider volunteering at one or two of our many projects and events.

The S.A.L. will be hosting the Steak Dinner on November 7th. And, at our November meeting we will be planning our December Biscuits and Gravy Breakfast. If you would consider volunteering in the future, it may interest you to come to these events and check out how they work, or maybe even shadow one of the volunteers to see where you can help out. Our November meeting will be held November 10th, at 6:30 pm, at the Post. We love to see new faces, whether it is at a meeting, or when you volunteer. I hope to see you there.

In closing I want to wish each of you a bountiful Thanksgiving table, surrounded by loved ones. Happy Thanksgiving.

Clubroom News

I can't believe it is almost November. This Fall has just been flying by. We have lots of fun things going on in the clubroom from now until the end of year. We hope you are able to join us. Looking for somewhere to catch some football action? Cheer on those Cyclones with friends! We also have the NFL Sunday ticket so stop in on Sundays to watch your favorite NFL team. The clubroom opens at noon on Sunday.

Our Wednesday meals have still been a popular night and we are so thankful for that. I would like to note that if you want to make sure you are going to get the meal you want please order ahead of time and then you can make sure you get it. Thanks for all your support!

Curbside Meals:

Wed. Nov 4-Pork Roast $9

Wed. Nov 11-Creamy Tuscan Chicken $9

Wed. Nov 18-Lasagna $9

Wed. Nov 25-Burger Night $9

Call the Post anytime after 2pm on Wednesday to place your order for pickup. 232-9870. You may also message us on Facebook or order in the clubroom earlier in that week.

Thursday, November 26 Clubroom Closed- Happy Thanksgiving!!

Friday, November 27 the Clubroom opens at 3pm. Music Bingo 7pm

This month's Kudo's: Russ and Vicki Belz, Mike and Sandy Deacon, Ken Woodley, Julie Rinard, Bill Donovan, Marty and Jo Kelly, Ken Woodley, Greg Hobbs, Colten Christiansen and Rodger VanVoorhis. A special thank you to everyone that came to post cleanup day. The place looks great. We really appreciate you!!



JSSP Update

The Youth Air Rifle Club has been practicing weekly to improve their skills and prepare for the upcoming competition season. Our Ames will club will host the first match of the season on Sunday, November 8 at the Ames Izaak Walton League. The first relay starts at 8:30 and will include competitors from clubs around Iowa.

Another program you have read about previously in this newsletter is our new BB gun class for 8 year olds and up. This six week course teaches gun safety, the types of guns and their uses and basic marksmanship. Contact Cort Pahl, centraliowajssp@gmail.com, to receive registration information for the first 2027 session that starts in January.

Squadron Fundraiser for Post Maintenance

In September 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. As I write this on 10/17, we have received $2,100.00 in donations. That is almost 1/3 of the way to our goal. That is exciting, thank you to those who have stepped up already.

Your donation is tax deductible through our 50.c.19 non-profit tax status. If you wish 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.

No contribution is too small, or too large. Your generosity is greatly and sincerely appreciated.

Ames Ford Lincoln Donation

Ames Ford Lincoln has generously made a donation of $4,080 through the Legion Riders Chapter. Their stipulation was that half of the donation go to Wreaths Across America and half to a Post project. It has been decided that the sprinkler system repair would receive the remainder.

Legion Riders

The 2026 riding season is in the books; the Legion Riders had a very successful year, many miles were rode, and many good times were shared. Mother Nature got us off to a slow start, but we finished up with some of the best riding anyone could ask for.

The Riders will now start focusing on Wreaths Across America. Wreath day at Ames Municipal Cemetery is scheduled for December 19. The WAA committee is working hard to get all the details set for the ceremony, many thanks for their hard work and dedication. Please plan to join us and place some wreaths on the graves, you won't regret it.

The newsletter is going through a change in the software used for editing. We appreciate your patience as we work through the change.

Coins and Stories

The Coins Post 37 Legionnaires Carry, and the Stories That Go With Them

By The AllCoin Team

On Veterans Day many veterans will be thanked for their service. The other half of the story is often at home: the challenge coins from a first unit, a deployment, a commander, a ship, a retirement, or the Post itself. The story behind each one is almost never written down, so when the coin passes to a son or a granddaughter, the meaning stays behind.

AllCoin is a place to write it down. A veteran, or a family member helping, photographs both sides of a coin they already own, adds a few lines about how it was earned and who gave it, and the coin and its story live in a searchable Coin Library their family can find years from now. Uploading and sharing existing coins is free for veterans, and there is nothing to buy.

To take part, go to allcoin.braav.co and create a free account; an email address is all it takes. Once your account is set up, you can also text a photo of a coin, with your account name, to (805) 395-6805 and the AllCoin team will upload it for you.

Whether the coin came from Post 37 or from a unit half a world away, the story is worth keeping while the person who remembers it is still here to tell it.

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NOVEMBER

Sun	*Mon*	*Tue*	*Wed*	*Thu*	*Fri*	*Sat*
1 YOUTH AIR RIFLE 1-3 AT IZAAK WALTON BINGO	**2** WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA 5:30 LEGION RIDERS 6:30	**3** AUXILIARY REGULAR 6:30	**4** WINESDAY WEDNESDAY CURBSIDE MEAL PORK ROAST	**5** OPERATIONS COMMITTEE 6:00	**6** FIREBALL FRIDAY	**7** RUCK MARCH 10:00 STEAK DINNER 5:00-7:00
8 BINGO	**9**	**10** MAIN ST FLAGS 5:00 SAL REGULAR 6:30	**11** WINESDAY WEDNESDAY CURBSIDE MEAL TUSCAN CHICKEN	**12** MAIN ST FLAGS 5:00 LEGION EXEC 6:00 REGULAR 7:00	**13** FIREBALL FRIDAY	**14**
15 BINGO	**16**	**17** SOCIAL COMMITTEE 6:00	**18** WINESDAY WEDNESDAY CURBSIDE MEAL LASAGNA	**19**	**20** FIREBALL FRIDAY	**21** PAST PRESIDENTS PARLEY 10:00
22 BINGO	**23**	**24**	**25** WINESDAY WEDNESDAY CURBSIDE MEAL BURGER NIGHT	**26** THANKSGIVING CLUBROOM CLOSED	**27** FIREBALL FRIDAY CLUBROOM OPEN AT 3 MUSIC BINGO	**28**
29 BINGO	**30**			Find us on Facebook at **American Legion Family of Ames, IA Post 37**		