



Dispatch

Greg Lemieux, Commander Colin Royal, Adjutant February 2014



Greetings from Huron.
 Membership is doing very well; we currently are at 447 members for 526 for goal. Our renewal rate is currently at 73% which is very good.

Recently there has been an issue with the USPS losing mail. They have lost 4 items since April. It has been determined that anything important will be signature required. As of this writing the USPS has lost another letter with checks in it. For security purposes, please email me when you send memberships to me so I know when to expect them.

Also with the recent rise in postage costs we are pushing the mailing list. The mailing list is an important mode of communication these days and with the cost of the postage fees going up it is highly encouraged to sign up for it at the website: www.sdsal.org. When you signup, you will receive an email confirming you registration and just follow the link and you are done, it's that easy.

**2013-2014
 MEMBERSHIP TARGET DATES
 SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION**

| | |
|--------------------------------|------|
| MARCH 12, 2014 | 80% |
| APRIL 9, 2014 | 90% |
| MAY 14, 2014 | 100% |
| *JULY 23, 2014 | 105% |
| *Delegate Strength Target Date | |



**National Vice Commander,
 Brad Schroenghamer**

I bring you greetings from our National Commander, Joe Gladden

It was my extreme pleasure to have visited you during your Mid-Winter Conference.

You all are doing a great job in support of the Programs of The American Legion and those of your own in the local Communities and the State. You are right on track with the 2014 membership goals and I congratulate you for this. Keep up the good work and I am sure you can obtain an All-time High in membership this year.

The Department of South Dakota was kind enough to allow me to make a presentation at the Joint Legion, Auxiliary, Sons

and Riders meeting on Saturday morning where I was able to provide some insight as to Who We Are and What We Do as Sons of The American Legion.

I believe the presentation was well received and that the entire Legion Family of South Dakota now has a much better idea of the great value you bring to The Legion Family.

I, of course, attended the Detachment Conference, where I heard more of the great things the Sons of South Dakota were doing and planning to do. You know who you are and what you do so I will let your Detachment Officers communicate to you on what more can be expected and on what other Squadrons in South Dakota are doing.

I especially appreciated the open communication in your meeting. We rolled up our sleeves and openly discussed issues, expectations, accomplishments, etc. with everyone having a voice. I personally believe that the best communication is that of being face to face and candid with one another and that is what I experienced at your Conference. And I believe everyone left feeling important and involved with all that is The Detachment of South Dakota..

Thank you so very much with having me at your Conference. I hope to be able to see you all again soon.



NVC Schroenghamer addresses the joint session.

**2014 Mid-Winter Conference Minutes – Huron, SD –
 January 25, 2014**

The meeting was called to order by Commander Greg Lemieux at 10:30 AM.

Colors were saluted as they were in place.

Chaplain Love led the opening prayer.

Roll Call was taken with Pierre – 1, Sioux Falls – 1, Watertown – 2, Lemmon – 1, Hot Springs – 1, Herried – 2, Martin – 1, Iroquois - 2. Officers present were: Commander Greg Lemieux, Adjutant Colin Royal, NEC Kerry Jorgenson, Alt. NEC JD Mattern, Sergeant-at-Arms AJ Royal, Finance Officer Mike Goetzinger, Chaplain John Love. Quorum was met.

Commander Lemieux called on NEC Jorgenson for the purpose of an introduction. National Vice Commander for the Midwest Region Brad Schroenghamer was introduced by NEC Kerry Jorgenson. NVC Schroenghamer gave a presentation that covered: National Commander Joe Gladden's program of the year, the Legacy Scholarship Fund. Additional programs of the presentation were: the Child Welfare Foundation, Membership and the Legion Riders importance for membership, the Fisher House, Missing in America (this is about veteran's remains being stored due to the lack of family to contact and to provide the appropriate honors and burial for them), the Special Olympics, and the Josh Dog program.

A brief recess was called at 11:25AM. The conference reconvened at 11:35AM.

Mike Goetzinger read the finance report; he stated that the Detachment is doing well financially. A motion to accept the finance report by JD Mattern and 2nd by AJ Royal and carried.

Commander Lemieux briefed the challenge to the Lemmon challenge for Squadron to donate \$100 to the Detachment in place of a raffle this year. Iroquois and Martin presented checks for the challenge.

The South Dakota Department Membership Chairman Terry Hanson of Arlington addressed the membership about getting memberships for the Detachment and working on Legion and Auxiliary memberships. He also said the Detachment has done well in its membership and thanked the Detachment for their work.

Colin Royal presented the membership report and briefed on 2013 membership year. We ended the year with 107.128% and 89% for a renewal rate. Also was announced that Hot Springs 71, Herried 170, and Martin 240 had achieved all-time highs for the 2013 year, Plaques will be awarded at the Detachment Convention. For the 2014 membership year the membership has met the January goal (61.03%), although it was a bit late. The Detachment renewal rate was 51.14% as of the same date. Seven Squadrons have sent little or no memberships in. Two Squadrons have surpassed the 100% goal and 119 memberships were turned in. As of January 23, the Detachment has 52 new members. Commander Lemieux called on Squadron Adjutants to get the memberships turned in a timely manner and not to hold them. Membership Awards were presented with the assistance of NVC Schroenghamer, Rapid City 22, Lemmon 66, Martin 240, and Iroquois 280 all received a certificate for obtaining Early Bird 50% of goal by November 1, 2013. Congratulations to them. Also that Iroquois 280 and Rapid City 22 have surpassed the 100%

goal.



NVC Schroenghamer presents JD Mattern of Lemmon 66 a certificate for the Early Bird 50% Award.



NVC Schroenghamer presents Mike Goetzinger of Martin 240 a certificate for the Early Bird 50% Award.

South Dakota Department Commander Rick McDonald address the membership and thanked the Detachment for the hard work and support of The American Legion. He briefed on his tenure and indicated that he has had a blast being the Department Commander.

NVC Brad Schroenghamer commented on our membership and presented 2 videos on membership.

Adjutant Royal briefed on the new MySAL.org website which allows Squadron adjutants to monitor and edit information online for Squadron members. It was recommended that all Squadrons sign up for this and some applications were provided.

Adjutant Royal Briefed on the Detachment Americanism. He briefed on the 5 star program and the 10 ideals program and sated that no awards were made during the 2013-2014 year as of the Mid-Winter Conference. Also were briefed, the upcoming Americanism dates and activities. Partnering with the Posts and communities in celebrating these date and activities was highly encouraged.

A brief NEC report was given and volunteers were solicited for submission for appointment to national committees.

The Child Welfare Foundation was briefed for the 2013 year the detachment \$613.75 to the CWF and that the Sons of The American Legion nationally raised \$453,559.07 for the CWF

To Adopt In letter and spirit all of the great principles for which The American Legion Stands

and that national pledge for 2014 was \$356,170 at \$1 per member. Also discussed was that Squadron donations are also credited to the Detachment results. May 1st is the cutoff date for the funds to get from the detachment to the CWF to be included by May 31st.

The VA&R report was given by Mike Goetzing of Martin and announced a challenge to the Squadrons to donate \$100 to the VA&R Popcorn Fund. Lemmon announced their Popcorn Fund Poker Run for June 14, 2014 at Lemmon.

Public Relations was discussed and was encouraged to get Squadron activities and accomplishment in the local news media. Also websites and facebook were encouraged for publicity. It was stated that the website guidelines were available on the website: www.legion.org/sons.

Chaplain John Love briefed on the Hot Springs VA activities and the pending VA survey coming in the near future. He also announced that the mobile Viet Nam wall will be returning to Hot Springs again this year. Date to be announced.

OLD BUSINESS

Postage was to go up again to \$.49 and that mailing will now be kept to a minimum to save money. It is highly encouraged that the Squadrons get their officers and members to go to the website, www.sdsal.org, and scroll down and sign up for the Detachment mailing list to receive information, and as a minimum the Squadron adjutant should be signed up. It is recommended that the Detachment Officers also sign up.

NEW BUSINESS

Adjutant Royal requested approval for a backup device for the Detachment computer, estimated cost would be about \$63. Motion was made by Robert Shadwell, second by AJ Royal. Motion Carried.

Colin Royal donated an HP Officejet printer to the Detachment due to a personal upgrade. He estimated the cost of the printer ink for Detachment use would be about \$65 per year.

A motion to donate \$1.25 per member, \$657.50, to the CWF was entertained. Motion made by JD Mattern, 2nd by Robert Shadwell. Motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Son of the Year program was discussed and Squadrons were encouraged to make a submission. Some applications were provided.

The Spring Executive Meeting will be held in Pierre at the Post on Saturday, April 26, 2014 at 1:00pm. Among the business to be conducted will be the selection of the Son of the Year.

The Detachment Convention will be held in Pierre at the Ramkota Inn on June 21, 2014. Commander Lemieux briefed that the Detachment is being considered to prepare and

serve the meal for the Go-Getters Reception at the Post. Help is requested from all Squadrons.

The website was stressed again and have Squadron officers sign up for the mailing list.

Chaplain Love led in the closing prayer.

Commander Lemieux closed the meeting with the appropriate ceremony at 2:35PM.

Colin Royal
Detachment Adjutant

MYSAL.ORG

National has announced that the site www.mysal.org is now available for the Squadrons to:

- View and Edit squadron membership
- Generate reports
- Reports available in CSV file format allowing users to work with the data in other applications such as Microsoft Excel and Access
- Squadron Inquiry

The method of paying the dues has not changed nor is it available on line.



Commander Lemieux addresses the Joint Session.