



# Dispatch

Greg Lemieux, Commander

Colin Royal, Adjutant

March 2012



Hello Gentlemen,

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your membership in the Sons of The American Legion and your devotion to our veterans and communities.

Below are some American Legion Family activities you may want to put on your calendar and try to attend. Remember, there is something for everyone in The American Legion.

American Legion District meetings are planned for March and April. This is your opportunity to get to meet other SAL members in your area and hear what is going on regarding Americanism, Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, Children & Youth, and National Security, as well as other American Legion programs in your District. I encourage all of you to attend this informative meeting. The full meeting schedule is in the February 29, 2012, Up To Now on the State American Legion Website ([www.sdlegion.org](http://www.sdlegion.org)).

- District 1, March 24, Nisland
- District 2, March 25, Rapid City
- District 3, April 1, Pierre
- District 4, March 31, Leola
- District 5, March 30, Gary
- District 6, April 15, Mitchell
- District 7, April 14, Hartford
- District 8, April 13, Tyndall

State Convention is in Watertown, June 14 through 17. On Thursday, June 14, the State American Legion Executive Committee and Admin Committee meets. Friday, June 15 State Convention Committees meet, with the Joint American Legion/American Legion Auxiliary/Sons of The American Legion Banquet, Friday evening. Saturday morning, June 16, the Convention convenes at 9:00 a.m. and we will hold our separate SAL meeting later in the morning. More information on the State Convention schedule will be made available to you at a later date.

Our membership is lacking a little. I know it has been a tough year but I still have faith we will get back to the 100% membership we have been at in the last three years. Colin and I have been working on new Squadron Charters and with all hopes we can have at least three new Squadrons before State Convention. Colin and I will be checking to see if we can get the

National Commander, or National Vice Commander to attend our Convention, so I hope we have a great turnout of member there.

We do have a \$1.00 discount on membership if paid by November 1 for the 2013 year. Our raffle is for a laptop computer. Tickets are 1 for \$5.00 or 3 for \$10.00. Please help sell some so we can make money for Detachment projects. I am hopeful we won't be flooded this summer so I can do some visiting of Squadrons and some of your fund raisers and programs. Let me know what programs your Squadrons are involved in so maybe I can attend. We are working on a PUFL Program for the Sons and with any luck, we can figure something out. We need to work as a team to keep our membership and programs going. You are all doing a good job so let's keep it up.

Hope to see you all at State Convention in Watertown.

Greg Lemieux  
Detachment Commander



Officer certifications are now due. In order to receive your Squadron membership cards you must certify your officers. The Squadron Officer Reporting Form is on the website in the Publications & Documents. Elections should be held by May and the certifications should be to the Adjutant by June 1, 2012. If you have completed your elections, then get the form from the website, fill it in and submit it.

Membership is slow but doing well as we are at 411 members with a goal of 516 by April 11, 2012. Several Squadrons are behind in membership and a couple Squadrons have not sent any in. Remember, send your membership submissions to the Adjutant at 1250 2<sup>nd</sup> St SW, Huron, SD 57350. Do not send them to the Commander or to Watertown as this delays an already slow process.

Next Membership Awards Target Date is May 1, 2012. The 100% membership award for the Squadrons is not the same as the 100% Goal for the National. The award is set at May 1 to ensure the Squadrons get 100% or better by May 9<sup>th</sup> at National.

The Top Recruiting Squadron is for the

Squadron with the most new members for the Detachment. The current race is Hot Springs leading the way with Herreid following close.

The top recruiter for the Detachment will receive a plaque for his work on recruiting new and renewing members. This person does now have to be from the Top Recruiting Squadron. So submit your recruiter with a list of names he recruited for verification.

The new award will be for the 90% or better of their goal for 5 consecutive years. Each Squadron that has reached this goal will receive a plaque for this achievement. At This writing there are four Squadrons that have made the award and three that are very close. This shows we have people out there working hard for membership.

**All Detachment Officers, Squadron Commanders and Squadron Adjutants must go to the website [www.sdsal.org](http://www.sdsal.org) and sign up for the mailing list so you can receive updates and information.** Also all Squadron Commanders and Adjutants and the Detachment officers need to email me at [adjutant@sdsal.org](mailto:adjutant@sdsal.org) so I can list your email for the Detachment officers list.

In Your Service  
Colin Royal, Adjutant

#### **SUBSCRIPTION – THE AMERICAN LEGION**

**MAGAZINE** – All members of the SAL can subscribe to The American Legion Magazine for 12 issues for only \$6.00 per year. Readers can enjoy articles about foreign affairs, ordinary citizens accomplishing extraordinary things, military valor, veteran's health care, history, etc. Keep up to date with programs of The American Legion and items of general interest. Send a check or money order for \$6.00 along with your complete name, address, date of birth, phone, email and SAL ID number to: The American Legion, Data Services – N0808, Magazine Non-Member Subscriptions, PO Box 1954, Indianapolis, IN 46206.

#### **2011 Fall Meeting Minutes Pierre, SD – November 5, 2011**

The meeting was called to order by Commander Greg Lemieux at 1:10 PM.

Colors were saluted as they were in place.

Roll Call was taken with Iroquois – 2, and Pierre –1, Herreid – 1. Quorum was met. Sergeant-at-Arms AJ Royal was present.

Acting Chaplain Cody Renner led the prayer.

Minutes of the 2011 spring meeting were read and

accepted.

Colin Royal presented the membership report and stated that membership is slightly down and that several Squadrons have sent little or no memberships in. Current membership in was standing at 184. Six Squadrons were at 50% or better with 2 Squadrons at 100%.

#### **Old Business:**

Paid up for life was tabled for further research.

#### **New Business:**

Motion by Colin Royal for a discount for early membership submissions by November 1 each year of \$1. Second by AJ Royal Motion carried.

Motion for Squadron officers to be certified to the detachment by June 1 each year to be eligible to receive membership cards for the upcoming membership year by Colin Royal, Second by Cody Renner, Carried.

Lennox was discussed and is to be notified of their current status and if they fail to submit membership for the 2011 and 2012 years they will be dropped from the national rolls through attrition.

Motion by AJ Royal to raffle a laptop computer as the raffle for the 2012 year. Second by Cody Renner. Carried. Colin Royal is to research and select the computer for raffle.

Mid Winter Conference is scheduled for February 10-12, 2011 at Oacoma, SD.

The 2011-2012 budget was discussed and accepted. Motion by Colin Royal and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Cody Renner. Motion carried.

Motion by Colin Royal to keep the same Child Welfare Fund member per capita for the 2012 CWF Donation.

Acting Chaplain Renner led in the closing prayer.

Commander Lemieux closed the meeting with the appropriate ceremony at 3:50PM.

Colin Royal  
Detachment Adjutant

#### **2012 Mid-Winter Conference Minutes Oacoma, SD – February 11, 2011**

The meeting was called to order by Commander Greg Lemieux at 10:45 AM.

Colors were saluted as they were in place.

Roll Call was taken with Iroquois – 2, and Pierre – 3, Watertown – 1, Hot Springs – 1, and Herreid - 6. Quorum was met.

Colin Royal read the finance report submitted by Mike Goetzinger, motion to accept the finance report by AJ Royal and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lance Vander Vorst and carried.

Colin Royal presented the membership report and stated that membership was slightly down and that several Squadrons have sent little or no memberships in. Five Squadrons have surpassed the 100% goal and 85 memberships were turned in.

Discussion on the proposal of a Paid Up For Life (PUFL) with Adjutant Royal briefed that a committee would need to be assigned to manage the program and that the program would have to be designed solidly prior to the submission to the Department Executive Committee of The American Legion for their approval. And that the investments of the funds would need to be solid enough to support the program.

Commander Lemieux briefed that the Executive Committee voted at the fall meeting to have a discount in membership dues beginning with the 2013 year. For each new membership year, all memberships postmarked on or prior to November 1<sup>st</sup> each year will be allowed a \$1 discount for the dues submitted to the Detachment. (i.e. for the 2013 membership year, dues to the Detachment per member would be \$6 rather than the \$7 when submitted on or prior to November 1, 2013)

Commander Lemieux briefed that following in the footsteps of the Department of South Dakota, The American Legion, the Detachment has adopted the policy of the Department to require that Squadron Officers be certified (form is on the website [www.sdsal.org](http://www.sdsal.org)) to the Detachment by June 1<sup>st</sup> each year to receive the new membership cards each year.

The raffle tickets for the computer raffle will be \$5 each or 3 for \$10 as motioned by Lance Vander Vorst, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kerry Jorgensen, carried. Colin Royal will get them made and distributed.

Lance Vander Vorst motion for the Detachment to purchase a printer cartridge for Colin Royal for the tickets he printed in the past and current. Robert Weisbeck 2<sup>nd</sup> and motion carried.

Membership for the 90% early bird awards were presented to Rapid City 22, Iroquois 280, Herreid 170,

Redfield 92, and Martin 240. Also it was noted that most of these Squadrons were also at 100% or better.

Commander Lemieux briefed on the National Convention and the awards that we received: Child Welfare Foundation Citation, National Emergency Fund, and All Time High Membership. He thanked the Squadrons for their hard work and dedication in achieving these goals.

The Child Welfare Foundation was briefed and Russ Eagleman motioned to submit \$1.25 per member to the CWF for the 2012 year. This would amount to \$716.25 for 573 members. 2<sup>nd</sup> by AJ Royal and motion carried.

Adjutant Royal briefed on the condition of the Detachment computer which was beginning to fail and that the cost of repair for the computer was not economical for a machine that was 5 years or greater in age. He requested a motion to purchase a new computer for the Detachment in the form of a laptop. Kim Rossow made a motion that the Detachment purchases a laptop with a price limit of \$600. Robert Shadwell 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and carried.

The Detachment Convention will be at Watertown on June 16, 2012. Squadron 17 passed out some packets and briefed on some of the details in work.

Detachment Son of the year selection was completed with Robert Weisbeck of Herreid selected as the Son of the Year for 2011. He will be presented his award at the Detachment Convention.

Chaplain Shadwell led in the closing prayer.

Commander Lemieux closed the meeting with the appropriate ceremony at 13:15PM.

Colin Royal  
Detachment Adjutant

The Detachment Convention will be held at the Watertown Event Center (Ramkota) on June 16, 2012. The following are motels available in Watertown.

Best Western Ramkota (full)	605-886-8011
Super 8	605-882-1900
Travel Host	605-882-2243
Days Inn	605-886-3500
Country Inn & Estates	605-886-8900
Holiday Inn Express	877-859-5095
Quality Inn & Suites	605-886-3010

Make your reservations now to get a good room.