



# Dispatch

Greg Lemieux, Commander

Colin Royal, Adjutant

May 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.

Remember, there is something for everyone in The American Legion.

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

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

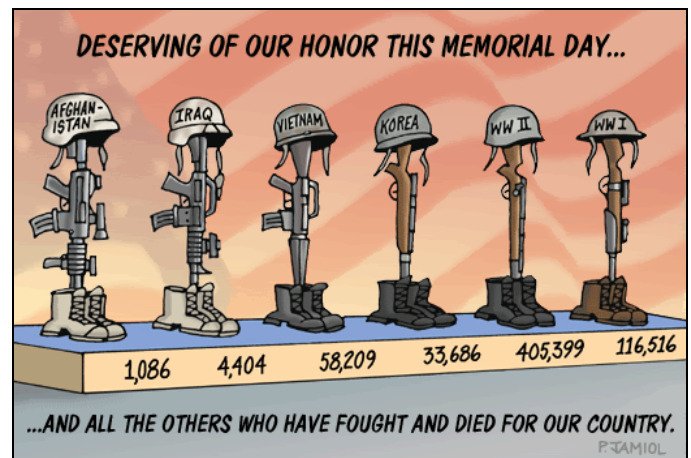
"Who kept the faith and fought the fight;  
The glory theirs, the duty ours." ~Wallace Bruce



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 at a standstill as we are at 444 members with a goal of 573 by May 9, 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.

For those who are not able to attend the Joint Banquet, the Sons of the American Legion will be gathering at the Watertown Elks Club at 600 W. Kemp Ave on the night of June 15, 2012 at 7:00 with a no host cocktail at 6:00. The Elks Club is from the Ramkota, east to 10<sup>th</sup> St, then north to West Kemp Ave and east.



The Top Recruiting Squadron is for the Squadron with the most new members for the Detachment goes to Hot Springs. The award will be presented at the Detachment Convention.

The top new member recruiter goes to Lance

Vander Vorst for his work in recruiting new members.

The award for the 90% or better of their goal for 5 consecutive years goes to Pierre 8, Herreid 170, Redfield 92, and Iroquois 280. These awards will be presented at the Detachment Convention.

Awards for 100% membership to be awarded at the Detachment Convention include Redfield 92, Herreid 170, Martin 240 and Iroquois 280.

With the Detachment Convention around the corner, elections will be taking place. Positions being elected are: Detachment Commander, Detachment Vice Commander, National Executive Committeeman, Alternate National Executive Committeeman, Detachment Chaplain, Detachment Historian, Detachment Sergeant-at-Arms. Other elections will be the Detachment Delegates to the National Convention and also Alternate Delegates.

**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

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.

### **Community Service**

Community service is a term used to describe the act of volunteering one's self in order to provide services and help benefit the community. Community service can be performed through cleaning roadways, helping the families of our active duty military, sendoff and welcome home ceremonies for our service members, helping the homeless, or even organizing charitable donations. Community service should be a main focus of your local Squadron. It is a small way for us to give back as we Sons continue to honor our parents and grandparents service to our country. There

are many ways to get started with Community service including:

- Assign a chairman to coordinate volunteering and community involvement
- Contact your Detachment Americanism Chairman for ideas
- Contacting your local food bank to see what type of donations they need
- Sending a candidate to Boys State or Girls State
- Finding families of active duty military in your area who need help around the house
- Sendoff and Welcome Home celebrations for our service members
- Getting involved with a local Habitat for Humanity project.
- Starting a flag replacement and flag etiquette program at your Post home
- Hosting an American Legion baseball team
- Start a local Adopt-A-Road team
- Educate your members about and support the American Legion National Emergency Fund

There are also many other ways you can involve your Squadron in community service. The main thing is to educate your members that this is what we should be doing. Also, I am sure you have new members who are looking for a way to get involved and this could be a great start. If you would like any help or information please contact me or one of the other members of the Americanism Commission.

Edward 'Buddy' Mastin  
Detachment of Maryland

### **Legion Extension Institute available online** (from legion.org)

The American Legion's official training program for officers, members, Legion College applicants and those who simply want to expand their knowledge of the nation's largest veterans service organization is now available online.

The American Legion Extension Institute has been rewritten, updated, streamlined and enhanced with videos, digital photos, clickable links, a historical timeline and additional features. To register and take the course, visit [www.legion.org/alei](http://www.legion.org/alei). *(Due to high traffic volume, you may experience some delays. If you experience delays, please try again later.)* The program should take less than two hours to complete. It is divided into six sections, with a quiz at the end of each one, followed by a final exam.

The sections closely follow the Legion's Four Pillars of service. They include:

- History & Organization
- Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation
- National Security
- Americanism
- Children & Youth

Upon completion, a participant must pass a final online exam to receive a digital certificate of recognition; a lapel/cap pin will also be delivered to those who successfully complete the course. The names of those who have passed will be recorded and indexed at The American Legion National Headquarters. Graduates will have the option to click a box upon completion to recognize their accomplishment on The American Legion national website: [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org).

The online course is \$4.95 for members of The American Legion and Sons of The American Legion. The registration fee is \$9.95 for non-members. Payment can be accepted securely and conveniently on the course registration page.

The American Legion Extension Institute online training program replaces the series of printed booklets that had been printed and sold through National Headquarters.

