



Greetings from Huron. It has been a busy couple of months and the work is finally getting caught up. Of course, the virus did not help.

Membership is doing very well; we currently are at 572 (108.75%) members for 552 goal on July 23rd. Our renewal rate is currently at 93.35% which is outstanding. The 2015 cards are here and are out. Keep in mind that your Squadron can save a \$1 per member if mailed before November 1st. Remember that we are still taking memberships for 2014, give prospective members the choice to sign up for either the 2014 year or both.

The membership goal dates have been posted by National and are as follows:

SEPTEMBER 10, 2014	10%
OCTOBER 8, 2014	25%
NOVEMBER 13, 2014	35%
DECEMBER 10, 2014	45%
JANUARY 21, 2015	60%
FEBRUARY 11, 2015	75%
MARCH 11, 2015	80%
APRIL 8, 2015	90%
MAY 13, 2015	100%
*JULY 23, 2015	105%

*Delegate Strength Target Date

As always we can meet these goals and blow them out of the water.

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.

I have included the application for this program for you.

Squadrons need to submit their officers to me so I have the right information to send out information or able to contact the right people. Please, if your Squadron has not sent this in, do so ASAP. Thank you!

“This country will not be a good place for any of us to live in unless we make it a good place for all of us to live in.” ~Theodore Roosevelt

FROM THE COMMANDER



First, I am truly humbled and honored to have been elected as your Detachment Commander. I hope to be worthy of your trust.

I am excited to see what we as a Detachment can get accomplished in the upcoming year. Many Squadrons are busy with projects and programs this summer and I hope to hear about them. I

hope to hear about everything each Squadron does this year.

Many thanks go out to PDC Greg Lemieux for all his hard work and dedication to the Detachment. I am honored to have served him and you, the Detachment, as your Adjutant. Greg, you're a great man and a good friend and I thank you.

Under Greg's tenure, we sent out several new Squadron packs and also a few more in the last few days. I will be following up these packets and will most likely enlist some of your help to check in on your neighbors. With the number of packets out there, it is my goal to build five Squadrons this year. Also I intend to reactivate 5 of the 10 inactive Squadrons this year and I will need your help. We can do this and we will do this.

Membership, something that keeps getting shoved down our throats, and as always is a hot topic. The reason for this is that, membership is the backbone of the Sons of The American Legion and it is our strength as it is in The American Legion. As I briefed the South Dakota American Legion Convention body, I have set an aggressive goal of increasing the Detachment membership by 25% or 142 members. With your help we will do this. We get 80-100 new members a year on average, what we need to do is retain those current members and recruit only a few more and we will get there.

So, I ask you to go out and be aggressive and get those members. Be sure to share your activities and benefits, and as an added bonus to the recruit, they will be eligible for the Legion Riders if they are a biker. Eligible members can be of any age, from birth on up. Should you have sons, grandsons, or great grandsons, sign them up, this includes adopted or stepsons and the like. And if you can, while you are recruiting, grab a new Legion or Auxiliary member also. Keep in mind that many Legion members are eligible for the SAL also. A selling point is the Legion Riders as well as the benefits that both the American Legion and the SAL have.

Communication is one of the things I believe in whole heartedly. Communication is very important, we need to communicate between all Squadrons, Posts and also with the public, the more we do, the more we can accomplish. The public is important and it is imperative that we tell them what we are doing and planning. My phone is always open to calls

(605-354-0310) for all SAL needs as well as by email. If you call, afternoons and evenings are usually best. The SD SAL mailing list is an email system to contact and pass information to Squadrons. Go to www.sdsal.org, scroll down and sign up, you will receive a confirmation email, click the link in it and your registration is complete. Registered members of the mailing list can send information to all Squadrons by simply emailing to the mailinglist@sdsal.org.

And as part of the communication, please send me the dates and times of your meetings and activities. I will make every attempt to visit each Squadron in the upcoming year.

As they always reiterate to the Legion members, I, as your elected Commander, work for you, the blue hats. I will do what I can for you and your Squadron.

I found this in the Up To Now from the Department and I feel it applies to the SAL also:

HOW TO RUIN YOUR LEGION POST IN ONE LESSON!

(From UTN #3135 dated 07/17/14)

1. Don't ever attend meetings.
2. If you come, come late.
3. If you do attend meetings, find fault with the work being done by officers and other members.
4. Get sore if you are not appointed to a committee, but if you are appointed, don't ever attend a meeting.
5. Never accept an office, as it is easier to criticize others than to do things yourself.
6. If you are asked by the Commander for your opinion, tell him/her you have nothing to say. After the meeting, tell everyone how it should have been done.
7. Do nothing to help the Post, but when other members roll up their sleeves and willingly help to get things done, howl that the organization is being run by a clique.
8. Hold back paying your dues as long as possible. Make someone give their time chasing you down to get them.
9. Don't bother about getting new members, let someone else do it.
10. When a feed is given, tell everyone that money is being wasted on blowouts that accomplish nothing.
11. Agree with everything said during a meeting, and then disagree with everything as soon as you are out of the meeting.
12. Get all you can from the Post but don't give anything back to the Post.
13. Take cooperation from the other members, but never cooperate back.
14. When everything else fails, "Blame the Officers".

I have seen these things happen in the Posts and also in some SAL Squadrons, even in my own Post and Squadron. Please do not let this happen in your Squadron.

FALL DISTRICT MEETING SCHEDULE

(From UTN #3136 Dated 07/30/14)

Sept 12 – District 5- Friday – Big Stone American Legion, 5:30 p.m. Social, 6:30 Lunch, 7:15 Meeting. Auxiliary will meet at the Big Stone American Legion Post Home.

Sept 13 – District 4- Saturday – Doland R-Bar Restaurant, Social 11:00 a.m., Lunch 12:00 noon, Meeting 1:00 p.m. Auxiliary will meet at the Senior Center.

Sept 15 – District 3 – Sunday – Gettysburg American Legion, 2:00 Social, 3:00 Meeting, Lunch following the Meeting. Auxiliary will meet at the Gettysburg American Legion Post Home.

Sept 26 – District 8 – Friday – Centerville American Legion, 4:00 p.m. Social, 6:30 p.m. Catered Meal (\$10.00 Charge) 7:30 p.m. Meeting. Auxiliary will meet at Scandia Lutheran Church at 7:30 p.m. (Three Blocks North of the Post Home)

Sept 27 – District 7 - Saturday – Garretson American Legion, Social 5:00 p.m., Meal 6:00 p.m., Meeting 7:00 p.m. Auxiliary will meet at the Senior Citizens Center. (Same block just North of Post Home)

Sept 28 – District 6 – Sunday – Mitchell American Legion, Social 2:00 p.m., Meeting 3:00 p.m., Meal following meeting. Auxiliary will meet at the Mitchell Post Home.

Oct 4 – District 1 – Saturday – Lemmon American Legion, Registration 11:00 a.m., Joint District 1 Meeting at 11:30 a.m., Lunch 12:00 Noon, District Meeting 1:00 p.m. Auxiliary will meet at the Lemmon American Legion Post Home.

Oct 5 – District 2 – Sunday – Hermosa American Legion, 11:00 a.m. Social, 12:00 Noon Lunch, 1:00 p.m. Meeting. Auxiliary location to be announced.

If you are able, attends the District meeting in your area to make our presence know and learn about what is going on in your area.

2014 Detachment Convention Minutes

Pierre, SD – June 21, 2014

The meeting was called to order by Commander Greg Lemieux at 10:40 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, Hot Springs – 1, Martin – 1, Iroquois - 2. Officers present were: Commander Greg Lemieux, Adjutant Colin Royal, NEC Kerry Jorgenson, Sergeant-at-Arms AJ Royal, Finance Officer Mike Goetzinger, and Chaplain John Love. Quorum was met.

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

Adjutant Royal presented the membership report. For the 2014 membership year the membership has met the July Goal (107.795%). The Detachment renewal rate was currently 91.63%. Seven Squadrons have sent little or no memberships in. Eight Squadrons achieved 100% by May 1st for 2014, Hot Springs 71, Herreid 170, Martin 240, Iroquois 280, Faith 106, Rapid City 22, Watertown 17, and Piedmont 311. Sioux Falls 15 reached 100% of Goal after May 1, 2014 but prior to May 14, 2014. Membership Awards were presented.

Jim Kurtz of Garretson Post 23 briefs the Convention on the upcoming Department Golf Tournament to be held in Garretson September 13-14, 2014. He will send more

information to the Detachment Adjutant to be forwarded.

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 Detachment Convention. Also were briefed, the upcoming Americanism dates and activities. Partnering with the Posts and communities in celebrating these date and activities was highly encouraged.

The Child Welfare Foundation was briefed for the 2014 year the detachment \$757.50 (Detachment \$657.50 & Iroquois 280 \$100) to the CWF and that the Sons of The American Legion nationally raised \$346,099.14, which breaks down to \$.972 per member, for the CWF and that national pledge for 2014 was \$356,170 at \$1 per member in which the Sons of the American Legion, nationally, missed the goal. 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.

Public Relations was discussed and was encouraged to get Squadron activities and accomplishments in the local news media. Most local papers and other media will publish your news. Also websites and facebook were encouraged for publicity. It was stated that the website guidelines were available on the website: www.legion.org/sons. Websites can be hosted at any hosting service for a fee. Legionsites.org hosts many Legion websites and do so for a fee. Adjutant Royal stated that he has unlimited web space on his personal server for Squadron websites that he is volunteering to be used at no fee except the annual registration fee for the domain which averages \$15.99.

VAVS report was given by Mike Goetzinger and briefed on the VA Popcorn Fund challenge they had made at the Mid-Winter Conference. Thus far the Detachment Squadrons have raised \$325 (Martin 240 \$100, Iroquois 280 \$25, Watertown 17 \$200). Iroquois 280 turned in another \$75 to make the total \$400 thus far.

The Lemmon Challenge to the Squadrons made at the Fall Meeting of donating \$100 to the Detachment instead of having a raffle for the 2013-2014 year. Thus far the challenge has netted \$600 (Pierre 8 - \$100, Iroquois 280 - \$100, Martin 240 - \$100, Herreid 170 - \$200, Watertown 17 - \$100)

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS:

Motion by John Harper of Watertown 17, motioned that another challenge to the Squadrons to donate \$100 to the Detachment for the 2014-2015 year. 2nd by Mike Goetzinger, carried.

Convention recessed for 10 minutes at 12:20.

Convention resumed at 12:30.

Squadrons are doing many good things out there in the Posts and communities. A new Americanism award was discussed and a draft copy of a form was circulated for comment. A plaque was selected as the award and the form would be only used by the Detachment Executive Committee for scoring. The Americanism Award will be based on the Consolidated Squadron Report (CSR) activities recorded. To qualify for this report, the Squadron must submit the CSR to the Detachment Adjutant for consideration. This is an incentive for Squadron to submit the reports to the Detachment, if the Squadron files their CSR on MySAL.org, just print the form and forward to the Detachment. Motion by John Harper to approve the new award with the suggested changes to the draft form. 2nd by AJ Royal. Carried.

John Harper Discussed the Post history program for the American Legion 100th anniversary. Work with your Squadron and Post historians to get this information in. Our history is also the history of the Posts and the American Legion.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Fall Meeting is scheduled for September 27, 2014 at Pierre Post 8 at 1:00PM. If this changes, information will be distributed ASAP.

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

ELECTIONS:

Commander Lemieux turned the Convention over to Adjutant Royal for the elections.

Colin Royal was nominated for Detachment Commander by AJ Royal, 2nd by John Harper, with no further nominations from the floor, motion carried.

Lance Vander Vorst was nominated for Detachment Vice Commander by Greg Lemieux, 2nd Mike Goetzinger, with no further nominations from the floor, motion carried.

Kerry Jorgenson was nominated for Detachment NEC by AJ Royal, 2nd by Greg Lemieux, with no further nominations from the floor, motion carried.

Joel Mattern was nominated for Detachment Alternate NEC by AJ Royal, 2nd by Mike Goetzinger, with no further nominations from the floor, motion carried.

John Love was nominated for Detachment Chaplain by John Harper, 2nd by AJ Royal, with no further nominations from the floor motion carried.

Cody Renner was nominated for Detachment Historian by AJ Royal, 2nd by Mike Goetzinger, with no further nominations from the floor motion carried.

AJ Royal was nominated for Detachment Sergeant at Arms by John Harper, 2nd by Mike Goetzinger, with no further

nominations from the floor motion carried.

The new officers were sworn in by outgoing PDC Greg Lemieux.

The floor was returned to Commander Royal.

Being no further business to come before the Convention the floor was turned over to Chaplain Love.

Chaplain John Love led in the closing prayer.

Commander Royal closed the meeting with the appropriate ceremony at 13:45PM.

Post Convention Chairmen Appointments:

Membership – Lance Vander Vorst of Herreid 170

VA&R – Steve Hicks of Martin 240

Americanism – Robert Weisbeck of Herreid 170

Children & Youth – Robert Weisbeck of Herreid 170

Public Relations – Colin Royal of Iroquois 280

Community Service – Greg Lemieux of Pierre 8

Legislative - Charlie Walker of Pierre 8

Finance Officer – Mike Goetzinger of Martin 240

Adjutant – Not Currently Appointed

Judge Advocate – Russ Eagleman of Pierre 8

Colin Royal
Detachment Adjutant

FIVE STAR & TEN IDEALS PROGRAMS

The Five Star and Ten Ideals programs are set up to help members learn about the American Legion, its programs and history. This includes the Sons of the American Legion programs and its history.

The Ten Ideals program is geared towards the younger members to teach them and prepare them for the Five Star program and rewards them for their accomplishment.

As for the Five Star program, this is for the older members and is to be awarded one star at a time. When the member completes all five steps in the program, then they are to be awarded the Five Star medal.

These programs may be studied as a group, however, each individual must pass the tests for each level. Both of these program awards must be certified by both Squadron Adjutant and the Post Adjutant.