



# Dispatch

Greg Lemieux, Commander

Colin Royal, Adjutant

October 2011



Dear Gentlemen,

I just returned from the Sons of The American Legion National Convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota. It wasn't what I expected but I did enjoy it.

I learned that even though we are one of the smallest Detachments, National Headquarters and other Detachments watch us very closely. They are very impressed with our work and our membership growth. We received an award for our 100% membership for being the first to reach our goal. I was surprised to find out that a lot of the Detachments are struggling. We actually have more new members than a lot of the Detachments.

Our New National Commander is James Roberts from Florida, and our Vice Commander is Danny Smith from Nebraska. We just missed our Triple Nickel Award.

The South Dakota American Legion Department Commander Mark Weinmann is requesting Consolidated Squadron Reports and Detachment Reports to include with his reports. Keep track of your activities and we will let you know when they are due to Detachment. Every Squadron will submit a Consolidated Squadron Report to Detachment Adjutant Colin Royal or myself. No exceptions! We wanted the South Dakota American Legion to recognize us, so now is our chance to show what we do. If you need forms or help filling them out, contact either of us. I will be letting Post Commanders know about this and will be getting their support on this.

I believe we have done an awesome job in supporting our Veterans and our Communities, and I applaud all of your hard work. Keep up the good job!

We as Squadrons deserve to brag about our projects and the detachment has a place for these bragging rights on our website at [www.sdsal.org](http://www.sdsal.org). Get your pictures and descriptions and information to Adjutant Royal and he'll get it place on the site. His email is [adjutant@sdsal.org](mailto:adjutant@sdsal.org) or you may mail it to him.

You may contact me at [glemieux1963@yahoo.com](mailto:glemieux1963@yahoo.com), [commander@sdsal.org](mailto:commander@sdsal.org), or 605-280-2448.

Keep up the good work everyone. Remember it is teamwork that makes things happen.

Sincerely,

Greg Lemieux, Detachment Commander  
South Dakota Sons of The American Legion



Membership has been coming in real steady, we are now at 567 members with one Squadron left to submit memberships. This places us at 110% and at an all time high. And we have met our goal of 100 new members.

Also remember that the dues are now \$7.00 per member submitted to the Detachment as the dues went up October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2010. Anything you collect above that is for your Squadron.

I have received the 2012 membership cards and have distributed them. Some of you have already submitted 2012 memberships, which already shows national that we are on top of it. Please get the memberships in to me sooner than January or February, which is when we received most of the 2011 memberships this past year.

**HOT!** Squadron 17 of Sioux Falls has challenged the other Squadrons of South Dakota and also The American Legion Posts to a \$1000 for the Backpack Program for your local school. Contact your local school to find out the best way for you to contribute. Please send in information on your contribution to be shared.

Consolidated Squadron Reports were sent out with only two returned out of eighteen sent. That is a poor percentage of return from our Detachment. The forms when completed are returned to National in which the information is compiled and distributed to the various agencies at National and is used for determining budgets, reports to the National Commander, The American Legion and etc.

Several Squadrons have not certified their officers to the Detachment as required as of this writing. Elections should be held in May and the certifications should be to the Adjutant before the Detachment Convention.

**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. Beginning November 1, 2011 the newsletter will be sent via the mailing list through the website only and also posted as a monthly publication on the website to enhance the information distribution. Other information will also be distributed via the mailing list and the website.** 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

**2011 Pre-Convention Minutes – Oacoma, SD – June 25, 2011**

The meeting was called to order by Commander Greg Lemieux at 10:00 AM.

Colors were saluted as they were in place.

Roll Call was taken with Iroquois – 2, Pierre – 2, Martin – 2, and Piedmont - 1. Quorum was met. NEC John Dewell, Sergeant at Arms AJ Royal, and Commander Greg Lemieux were present.

Acting Chaplain Mike Goetzinger led the prayer. Watertown Resolution was discussed with a motion by John Dewell to recommend approval, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Russ Eagleman 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried.

Acting Chaplain Mike Goetzinger led in the closing prayer.

Commander Lemieux closed the meeting with the appropriate ceremony at 10:30AM.

Colin Royal  
Detachment Adjutant

Did You Know?

- The Sons of The American Legion was created in 1932 as an organization within The American Legion.
- American Legion Riders need to be a member of The American Legion or the Sons of The American Legion before they can join the AL Riders.
- South Dakota has one of the highest membership percentages and renewal rates in the SAL nationally.

**2011 Convention Minutes – Oacoma, SD – June 25, 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, Pierre – 2, Watertown – 2, Martin – 2, and Piedmont - 1. Quorum was met. NEC John Dewell, Sergeant at Arms AJ Royal, and Commander Greg Lemieux were present.

Acting Chaplain Mike Goetzinger led the prayer.

Colin Royal presented the membership report and stated that membership was outstanding and that one Squadron has sent little or no memberships in. Nine Squadrons have surpassed the 100% goal and 3 memberships were turned in. Also he stated that the Detachment was currently 5<sup>th</sup> in the nation and that we were at an all time high with 555 members.

Mike Goetzinger gave the finance report. He reported a balance of \$4839.02 with some checks outstanding and the rifle raffle funds also outstanding. Motion to accept the report by AJ Royal and 2<sup>nd</sup> by John Dewell, Motion carried.

John Harper of Watertown Squadron 17 briefed the

membership on a proposal for a resolution to allow the Sons of The American Legion membership to expand to include fathers, brothers, and uncles. Discussion on the resolution proceeded with a minor change of wording and was approved as amended. Motion by John Harper, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Steve Hicks, Motion Carried.

Discussion on the proposal of a Paid Up For Life (PUFL) with an assigned committee of Greg Lemieux, Colin Royal, and Steve Hicks to research financial support and to develop a viable program for the Detachment of South Dakota.

Commander Lemieux briefed on the Tribute to the troops to be held in Pierre on June 17 – 19, 2011 was cancelled due to the Missouri River flooding.



Commander Lemieux presented 100% membership awards to Piedmont, Martin, Iroquois, and announced other recipients as Lemmon, Herreid, Redfield, Hot Springs, Rapid City and Gettysburg. Gettysburg was named the Top Recruiting Squadron of the Year for 2011.



The Son of the Year recipient was Colin Royal of Iroquois Squadron 280.

Elections were held with no nominations from the floor, a motion that nominations cease and current officers be re-elected. Motion by Steve Hicks and 2<sup>nd</sup> by John Dewell, Motion carried.

Elections were held with no nominations from the floor, a motion that nominations cease and current officers be re-elected. Motion by Steve Hicks and 2<sup>nd</sup> by John Dewell, Motion carried.

Commander Lemieux was presented with a plaque for his work over the last four years as Detachment Commander by Mike Goetzinger and Colin Royal for the Detachment.

Acting Chaplain Mike Goetzinger led in the closing prayer.



Commander Lemieux closed the meeting with the appropriate ceremony at 12:00PM.

Colin Royal  
Detachment Adjutant

### National Commander Elected



Jim Roberts of Kissimmee, Florida was elected at the 40<sup>th</sup> National Convention in Minneapolis.

Commander Roberts is a 30 plus year member of the Sons of The American Legion Squadron 4 of Lakeland, Fl. He is employed as the Regional Coordinator of the Florida Division of Emergency Management.

His Theme follows.

### GETTING BACK TO BLUE

National Commander Jim Roberts' theme is "Getting Back to Blue." Commander Roberts and the other members of the National Team are looking to help us to get back to blue. This is the level where we all wear blue caps and blue nametags. This is where all of the hard work by our membership gets done. In order for us to be successful in getting back to blue, Commander Roberts has 3 priorities.

**Communications** - Commander Roberts believes that we need to be able to communicate effectively across all levels of our organization and using every tool available to us. Our Squadrons, Districts and Detachments are encouraged to use technology to create a way to communicate to our members and non members. Technology like a website and the use of blogs & social media / networks like Facebook or Twitter can assist you in getting messages out about the good things we do. However, we must not forget that personal contact and word of mouth communications. Reach out your arm for that handshake, because that is the beginning of the relationship that fosters the exchange of ideas for us to build upon and be successful.

**Commitment** - Commander Roberts also believes that it does not matter what position or job title we hold within the Sons of The American Legion...It only matters that we do it well, we do it properly and we do it to the best of our ability. We must be committed to our membership, our programs and The American Legion Family. Our commitment as a Legion Family means that we do things well because we do them together. We must work together as a FAMILY if we are to be successful.

**Recognition** - Commander Roberts knows that we must recognize those members who are doing good things for our Legion Family. A "THANK YOU" goes a very long way. If you stop and take a moment to thank someone for the good work they do, they will come back to help out again. They may even renew their membership if you give recognition where it is deserved.

This year all of our Sons, nationwide, are part of the team. Please do your part to help us out and be successful.

A recent message from the National Commander:

My Fellow Sons,

The trail ride has begun and our first stop on the trail took us to the East with a stop in New York, this stop coincided with the events surrounding 9/11 and I hope that all of you took some time to remember the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of that tragic day. Time to remember those who were taken from us and those heroes who made the sacrifice to save the lives of others.

Looking over this membership report, I am pleased to report that as a whole we have exceeded the first target of 10% with 13.33% or 46,072 members. So far we are 7,212 members ahead of this time last year and 2,787 ahead of this time 2 years ago. This is wonderful news and we are heading in the right direction. Thanks to you all for your hard work and let's keep this momentum going.

I would like to congratulate the 36 Detachments and the 4 Regions that met the 10% target - GREAT JOB!!! Please continue doing good things in membership.

Remember that as the year continues, it will get a little harder on membership. So I am asking that you all stay focused and remember the 3 R's - RENEW, RECRUIT & REINSTATE. These should be your guide this year as you head down the membership trail

Thanks for all of the good work you are doing.

*Jim Roberts (FL)*  
National Commander

*Sons of The American Legion*  
E-mail: [jim.robertsfl@gmail.com](mailto:jim.robertsfl@gmail.com)