



Quarterly Dispatch

Greg Lemieux, Commander

Colin Royal, Adjutant

Q1A/2010



Gentlemen,

Our spring meeting and State Convention are approaching. I am having Adjutant Colin Royal send tickets for our raffle out to all Squadrons. I would like to have everyone sell tickets. We did not do very well on our last raffle as not all Squadrons were selling tickets. This time I am sending tickets to everyone and am asking that you please sell as many as possible. These raffles are what help us with our donations to our programs. I am also asking for some volunteers to help sell tickets at State Convention in Spearfish. We will have a table in the registration area. If we have plenty of volunteers we can rotate them selling tickets.

Please make sure Consolidated Squadron Reports are filled out and sent in. It is the way that National Headquarters knows what we are doing in South Dakota.

Our membership is looking good. Keep up the good work. Let me know if I help in any way.

If you have an event coming up, let me know, in advance, and I'll try to adjust my schedule to attend.

We will be choosing the Son of The Year award so get your applications in to Colin. I would like to see more than one application because I know there are a lot of members who are worthy of this award. Let's brag them up.

Colin and I have revised the agenda for State Convention. We are going to have more of an informational meeting instead of strictly business. I would like to hear more of what everyone is doing at their squadrons. I want to have a relaxed meeting, so bring information on all your activities.

I hope to see you all at our meetings.

Keep up the great work.

Greg Lemieux
Detachment Commander
South Dakota Sons of The American Legion



The Consolidated Squadron Reports are here and have been included in this mailing to the Squadrons. These reports are important and show what your Squadron has done over the last year. The need to be filled out and returned to me by May 15, 2010 so I can get them sent to National.

Also it is time again for the Son of The Year and your Squadron should have a person who is well qualified. I have enclosed the form in the envelope for most Squadrons, some already have received it at the Mid Winter. Please submit your selection by April 15, 2010.

April is Squadron elections and enclosed is the officers submission form. Please fill it out as soon as your elections are completed and return it to me.

There will be a new set of membership awards coming out with the cards in July when we get the particulars worked out on a few items left, most of which is completed. Some Squadrons received 90% early bird award for membership, Lemmon, Iroquois, Faith, Hot Springs, and Piedmont. Congratulations to them and keep up the good work. Also Lemmon and Iroquois were at 100% or better by the Mid Winter Conference.

Several Squadrons have sent in no memberships at all and they are Martin, White, Redfield, Hartford and Lennox. We need to get the memberships in as we do have goals to meet and these memberships if not paid soon will expire.

Remember, that any membership not paid by February 1st is delinquent and any membership not paid by April 1st membership privileges cease. So Please make an effort to get your memberships paid ASAP.

I have included some information from the Liaison Notes and The American Legion website for you to look at. Hugh Holmes of Mitchell shows us that our voice does count at more than the local level.

For the upcoming Detachment meeting, there will be many things to review and talk about as well as some resolutions to read and forward to the Convention in June.

Raffle tickets for the Convention raffle have been distributed to the Squadrons. Please sell them and return the stubs and the funds to the Adjutant as soon as you can. If you would like more tickets lent ne know and I'll get some more sent out. The Raffle is for two prizes: 1st - \$350 and 2nd - \$150. The date of the Raffle is June 19, 2010 which is the date of the Convention. The date is stamped on the first ticket of each book.

The last raffle was for a TV which went to a gentleman from Sioux Falls and the coat went to a gentleman from Lemmon. We made \$170 on the coat and \$800 on the TV. Thanks to the Sons for their hard work and dedication.

In Your Service
Colin Royal, Adjutant

NOTE: The new SAL Youth Handbook is available for download from the Nation website and also from the Publications page at the Detachment website www.sdsal.org.

2010 Mid-Winter Conference Minutes – Oacoma, SD – February 13, 2010

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

Colors were saluted as the were in place.

Roll Call was taken with Iroquois – 1, and Pierre – 2, Watertown – 1, Sioux Falls 1, Lemmon – 5, Herried - 3. Quorum was met. Chaplain Todd Kuck, Sergeant-at-Arms AJ Royal, Vice Commander Ron Frentz, NEC John Dewell and Alternate NEC JD Mattern was present.

Chaplain Todd Kuck led the prayer.

Minutes of the 2009 Fall Executive Committee Meeting were read and accepted.

Heard the finance report from Mike Goetzinger, he reported a balance of \$3537.19 with all bills paid. Motion by John Mattern to accept the finance report, Seconded by Robert Block, Motion carried.

Department Commander Rod Martens addressed the Conference.

American Legion NEC Paul Evenson addressed the Conference for the American Legion National Commander Clarence Hill who was unable to make the Conference due to weather.

Vannette Lopez of the Black Hills Cemetery addressed the conference and spoke of the burial benefits for veterans and their families.

NEC Dewell presented a prepared report for the NEC. Membership and CWF were reported on.

John Dewell presented the Legislative report and briefed on several bills that concerned the veterans and the public.

Colin Royal presented the membership report and stated that membership is slightly down and that several Squadrons have sent little or no memberships in. Two Squadrons have surpassed the 100% goal and 5 Squadrons had

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

surpassed the 90% goal. Approximately 60 memberships were turned in.

Colin Royal presented the Americanism report and talked about the 5 star and ten ideals programs. Also the Consolidated Squadron Reports (CSR) will be here soon and will be sending them out in the near future. Lance Vander Vorst presented an Americanism report from Herreid.

Mike Goetzinger presented the VA&R report for Steve Hicks, and asked for ideas for challenges the Squadrons.

Colin Royal presented the Children & Youth Report and briefed on the CWF with a few facts and the discussed the new goal of \$750 for the Detachment for the CWF and that to meet that goal we would have to give \$1.75 per member as a base figure. Discussion followed with the Convention to address the issue in June.

Old Business:

Status of the TV Raffle was discussed and the TV was now paid for and that all ticket sales were doing well and were into profit. Also Lemmon saved the Detachment over \$100 by purchasing the TV through their contacts.

The Coat Raffle would be taking place after the Conference and volunteers were solicited to sell tickets.

Discussed the charter probations of Huron, Rapid City and Lennox. Commander Lemieux reported that Rapid City had a new adjutant and that things were looking up and that Lennox had mailed memberships in.

TV raffle for the Convention was discussed and motioned by Ron Frenz to change the raffle to a \$250 cash prize. 2nd by Russ Eagleman and motion carried.

JD Mattern motioned the tickets be \$5 or 3 for \$10. 2nd by Mike Goetzinger and motion carried.

New Business:

Ron Frenz motioned that a 50-50 raffle be done at the Convention with tickets at \$1 or 6 for \$5. 2nd by JD Mattern and motion carried.

Commander Lemieux briefed on a proposed resolution to allow a Squadron to remain if the parent Post loses its charter.

Herreid Squadron 170 and the Herreid 7th grade class were congratulated for the DVD for troops and that award ceremony would be held at a later date at Herreid and that Commander Martens wanted to be there.

Commander Lemieux announced the awarding of the 2nd Star for Citizenship was awarded to AJ Royal.

Commander Lemieux set the next Executive Committee meeting for April 24, 2010 at Post 280 in Iroquois at 13:00hrs.

Chaplain Kuck led in the closing prayer.

Commander Lemieux closed the meeting with the appropriate ceremony at 12:56PM.

Colin Royal
Detachment Adjutant

ADDENDUM: After a roll call vote by phone by Commander Lemieux, the raffle for the Convention was changed to 1st prize of \$350 and a 2nd prize of \$150.

FROM THE NATIONAL SAL LIAISON NOTES 2/26/2010

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.

DATES OF BIRTH INFORMATION – We continue to capture and collecting date of birth information of our members. This has been an ongoing and slow process. This program is outlined in the 2010 Administrative Manual, page 30. This information is contained on the Squadron membership register for every member of the Sons. Many Squadrons throughout the Country have not submitted this information accordingly. The information is needed for demographic needs as well as future actuarial studies used for insurance plans, etc. The information can be submitted accordingly by postcards, date of birth form (page 46 of the Admin Manual), member data forms, or online at www.sal.legion.org in the change of address area in the section marked on the web page. Detachments are encouraged to pass this information on to all Squadrons and members during scheduled Conferences and Sons meetings.

DATES OF BIRTH INFORMATION – We continue to capture and collecting date of birth information of our members. This has been an ongoing and slow process. This program is outlined in the 2010 Administrative Manual, page 30. This information is contained on the Squadron membership register for every member of the Sons. Many Squadrons throughout the Country have not submitted this information accordingly. The information is needed for demographic needs as well as future actuarial studies used for insurance plans, etc. The information can be submitted accordingly by postcards, date of birth form (page 46 of the Admin Manual), member data forms, or online at www.sal.legion.org in the change of address area in the section marked on the web page. Detachments are encouraged to pass this information on to all Squadrons and members during scheduled Conferences and Sons meetings.

FROM THE AMERICAN LEGION WEBSITE

Blue Star coin now available



Hugh Holmes, a U.S. Army veteran and member of Mitchell, S.D., American Legion Post 18, is the inspiration for a Blue Star coin to honor spouses of men and women serving in the military.

"I was looking at online merchandise on at Emblem Sales and noticed that coins were available that honor military men and women, but there were no coins to honor spouses of military members," Holmes said. "The job description of a military spouse is too hard to put into words. It is the hardest job in the world. They do everything and they do it well."

Holmes e-mailed Emblem Sales representatives, noting his concern about no coin for military spouses. Richard Keith, director of Emblem Sales, liked the idea and ordered production of Blue Star coins.

Emblem Sales mailed a free coin to Holmes, and he later ordered a number of the newly minted Blue Star coins. He presented his first coin to his daughter-in-law.

"Spouses deserve a big pat on the back for their service to our country, and sometimes we overlook people who do a good job," Holmes said. "I love the design of the coin. It has the colors of our country and the Blue Star Banner."

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