

Detachment of South Dakota Quarterly Dispatch

Greg Lemieux, Commander

Colin Royal, Adjutant



What a busy month we have ahead of us. I know Posts have kids parties planned and they are a blast. Posts also have special dinners planned. Many Posts have a basket program or a grocery giveaway, please help if you can, it is so helpful to the recipients and it will give you a lifetime of memories, I know it has with me. Many Posts have holiday activities at the V.A. hospitals, by all means; ask what you can do to help. Please wear your Sons caps as you visit and show how proud you are to be Sons member.

Keep in mind all of our troops that will not be with their families at this time of year and help with the families that are here at home. Find out through The Post how you can help. There are many programs that you can participate in.

Now would be a good time to make sure that any kids that are spending this month in the hospital have a friend. It only takes a small amount of time to bring a little sunshine to the children. Take a little time to find out if their families need anything, The Sons are a helpful bunch.

I have been invited to participate in The Pearl Harbor Event, on Sunday morning Dec. 7, 2008. It is my hope to well represent The National organization. Thank You for the opportunity.

Keep up the good work with membership. It has been going good. You are doing a GREAT job.

This is the time of year to be thankful for what we have and what we can do for one another. I encourage all to take the time to do what you can for your fellow man.

Yours in Service,
Tommie
National Commander



Dear SAL Members

We are off to a good start but we still need to keep pressing that membership. Please remember to get those

Squadron Reports in, they are important to the whole organization.

We have to remember we are here for the assistance of our Legion Posts. If it wasn't for them, we wouldn't exist and we do need their support. Keep up the good work on helping them..

This year we will be raffling off a 32" Digital HDTV for our annual fund raiser. Once again, congratulations to Red Vetter on winning the Nova 12 gauge shotgun from last year's raffle. He has been a great help with our fund raisers and I want to thank him again for that. Hopefully with everyone's help we can have a great raffle once again this year.

On another note, our turnout at the Executive Committee meetings has been low. At the Mid Winter meeting and during State Convention, I would appreciate your input on what we can do to improve attendance. Your suggestions are very welcome. We must get our officers and Squadrons certified. Without that those missing have no benefits or votes. Please get these to Adjutant Colin Royal as soon as possible.

If you get a chance check out our National website. It has been revamped with the election of our new National Commander Tommy Cisna. He guarantees me he will work with us in any way possible to help us grow.

The news clippings from the Squadrons have been a pleasure to read. You can find these on our Detachment website. There are some great things being done. Check it out and get some ideas.

Remember renewals and new members are greatly welcome. Good luck and keep up the great work.

Greg Lemieux
Detachment Commander
South Dakota Sons of The American Legion



We are now past the December 10th membership target date and we are 7.36% ahead of the target at the national level as of We have made leaps and bounds in membership and thank you to all for the great work, we are currently 87.36% in renewal memberships and thus far have signed up 71 new members.

Currently, Lemmon Squadron 66 leads the pack with membership of 238.46% of goal, followed by Iroquois Squadron 280 with 164% of goal, Piedmont Squadron 311 with 125% of goal and Redfield Squadron 92 with 110% of goal. And that's where we stand with 202 members paid for the 2009 year. Congratulations to these Squadrons and keep up the good work. Another Squadron doing well is Sioux Falls Squadron 15 with 103.03% of goal.

As we have recently completed our fall Executive Committee meeting, many things have been discussed and some items were adopted. Membership goals, lack of paid memberships, TV raffle, budget, and much more. Again, attendance was poor for this meeting. We did meet Quorum and were able to conduct the necessary business. After visiting with the members and listening to Department Commander Huls, we have aligned with the Department on operational procedures. We adopted their membership policies and more.

We still have many Squadrons who have not forwarded their officers. This is required so we may contact the necessary people for information gathering and dissemination. If you have not sent the information in, please do so now.

The Detachment Mid-Winter will be held in Oacoma on February 14, 2009. The official call will come in the near future with more information. Hope to see you all there!

In Your Service
Colin Royal
Adjutant

**2008 Fall Executive Committee Minutes Huron, SD –
October 4, 2008**

The meeting was called to order by Commander Greg Lemieux at

Detachment of South Dakota
Quarterly
Dispatch



Greg Lemieux, Commander

Colin Royal, Adjutant

1:10 PM.

Roll Call was taken Huron – 1, Iroquois – 2, and Pierre – 1. Quorum was met. Elected officers present were Commander Lemieux, Sergeant-at-Arms AJ Royal, and Chaplain Mike Goetzinger; absent were Vice Commander Eric Vetter, NEC Bob Bender and Alternate NEC Kerwin Douthit. Department Liaison Wayne Vetter was absent. Department Commander Jim Huls and District 10 Commander Nancy Lemieux were also in attendance.

Chaplain Mike Goetzinger led the prayer.

Adjutant Royal read the minutes of the last meeting and they were accepted as read.

The Finance Report was read by Mike Goetzinger. Motion by John Dewell to accept, Nathan Maslack 2nd and motion carried. He reported that the Detachment is doing well financially after clearing \$1400 from the shotgun raffle.

Colin Royal made the membership report and said that the membership is doing well thus far for the 2009 year. Lennox is the only Squadron that has not sent in any membership as of yet for the 2008 year and NEC Bender has been asked to look into it.

Mike Goetzinger read the VA&R report by Steve Hicks and talked of Squadrons making challenges for fund raising.

John Dewell made the Legislative report and asked Commander Huls to talk about the Department's legislative activities. Commander Huls spoke of the upcoming elections and the changes that would be taking place in the legislative body. He also spoke of the survey sent out by the Department to the current legislative body and its results and that the upcoming year would be a busy one.

OLD BUSINESS:

Discussed and approved the purchase of the TV for the raffle and Colin Royal to make the tickets. Motion by Mike Goetzinger, 2nd AJ Royal motion carried.

Motion by Nathan Maslack to sell the raffle tickets at \$5 each or 3 for \$10, 2nd by AJ Royal. Motion Carried.

Adjutant Royal will notify the South Dakota Secretary of State of the raffle and its projected drawing date of the Detachment Convention in Huron.

Membership goals were discussed and Commander Huls was asked about how the Department determines the goals for the Posts. Adjutant Royal motioned that the Detachment adopt the formula (three year average of paid membership plus one) used by the Department be used for current and all future Squadron membership goal determinations, 2nd by Mike Goetzinger. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Adjutant Royal presented a proposed 2008-2009 budget. With

changes to the Commander's Expenses and the introduction of a Travel expense, motion to accept the budget by Patrick Downey. 2nd by John Dewell. Motion carried.

The addition of a Vice Commander was discussed. The proposal would create two Area Vice Commander slots, one for East River and one for West River. After discussion and concerns of active participation by our Detachment members and officers were raised, item was tabled for further input at the Mid-Winter Conference.

The proposed change to the Detachment Constitution Article VII section three was discussed. Proposed adding the Department Adjutant to the list of authorized signatures on the checking accounts, was deemed not necessary and the action was killed.

The Detachment Mid-Winter Conference will be held February 14, 2009 at Oacoma, SD. Time will be announced at a later date.

The Detachment Convention will be held in Huron, SD in June 2009.

The next Executive Committee Meeting will be hosted by Watertown Squadron 17 on April 25, 2009, time to be announced.

Chaplain Goetzinger led in the closing prayer.

Commander Lemieux closed the meeting with the proper ceremony at 2:55pm.

Colin Royal, Adjutant
Detachment of South Dakota