



Quarterly Dispatch

Greg Lemieux, Commander

Colin Royal, Adjutant



The National meetings were just held in Indy. I would have to say that the spring meetings were a GREAT success. The Commission and Committees have done a great job all year long and it showed.

I had several comments about how smoothly the meetings went and how much information was gained. The NMI courses, as always, were well attended and well received.

All of the donations received and there were many, is a testament to how The Sons step up to the plate and deliver.

I would now ask for a BIG push for CWF donations. We are well within reach of the 4 million dollar to date donations. With all of the CWF donations that were received and we came so close. We only need \$75,000 to reach our goal and meet the challenge that CWF President Dennis Boland (FL) has issued.

Thank You to all who have made CWF donations, you have made a difference in many children's lives.

Yours in Service, Tommie, National Commander



Dear SAL Members

It is coming up on State Convention time. We have a meeting on April 25, 2009, in Watertown. This meeting is to discuss a few things before State Convention, so it would be great to have as many people as possible show up. Everyone's input on these matters is needed and appreciated.

I hope that ticket sales for the TV raffle are going well. Please make sure that any money and ticket stubs, and unsold tickets are turned in to me, or Adjutant Colin Royal, before or at State Convention.

Membership is going great thanks to all of you.

On Friday, June 19, 2009, the Pierre Oahe Days Committee is putting on a dedication to all Veterans. Friday the Sons will be in charge of providing a color guard, with the help of The American Legion Auxiliary and American Legion members. This color guard will be leading a parade through town. We will then be presenting the colors at the dedication ceremony to be held in Steamboat Park beginning at 8:00 p.m. CDT. As the Detachment Commander I have been asked to speak at this ceremony. We will then be setting up a booth, manned by the SAL, Auxiliary, and Legion, during the weekend, to recognize Veterans, family members, and community supporters who attend the Oahe Days event. All Veterans and their family members are encouraged to attend and participate in the parade. Line up for the parade is at 6:00 p.m., in Griffin Park, Pierre, with the parade to begin at 7:00 p.m. We would like as many Veterans as possible to come. This is to say thank you and recognize all the Veterans who have sacrificed for our country. For further details contact me at glemieux1963@yahoo.com, 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



We are now past the May 13th membership target date and we are 6.9% behind 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 72.52% in renewal memberships and thus far have signed up 120 new members.

Currently, Lemmon Squadron 66 leads the pack with membership of 338.46% of goal, followed by Watertown Squadron 17 with 264.71% of goal, Herried Squadron 170 with 238.89% of goal and Sioux Falls Squadron 15 with 166.67% of goal. And that's where we stand with 405 members paid for the 2009 year. Congratulations to these Squadrons and keep up the good work.

New membership has raced past the goal with 124 new members in South Dakota. Lemmon lead with 29 new members, Sioux Falls at 23 and Herried at 17 new members.

Unfortunately, we have some Squadron who have not sent any 2009 memberships in to the Detachment as of yet. They are Lennox, White, and Hartford. Also some Squadrons are far short of their goals and need to look at themselves. If you have memberships collected, get them sent in ASAP as not we are looking at 100% of the national goal for the Detachment and we still need about 30 memberships to meet goal. With 120 new members state wide we can do this easily.

June 27th is the State Convention and we have a new activity this year. There will be a Sons of The American Legion Supper being served a la carte at 7:00PM with a social hour at 6:00PM. This will be held at the Plains in Huron on the June 27th. All Sons, Spouses, and families are invited to attend. See the enclosed flier. We would like an approximate count in your group who may attend.

The website www.sdsal.org has a mailing list and is functional and ready. If you would like to be a part of the mailing list for announcements and other information, go to the site, scroll down and sign up. Announcements and newsletters will also be mailed in this fashion so don't miss out.

Enclosed is the Call to Convention for the Detachment Convention Jun 27, 2009 in Huron, SD.

As you know, we all deserve bragging rights and we all should be bragging up our Squadron. You may email me pictures and information so I may place it on the website for bragging purposes. We currently have a good site with the few Squadrons who have submitted and I know there is a lot more out there. Send in your stuff and brag it up and be proud of what you do!

In Your Service
Colin Royal
Adjutant

VA&R CHALLENGE



Fellow Son's of the American Legion:

It is time, once again, to remember our Fathers, sons, brothers or nephews that have served our country and are now in VA centers around the country, either

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

on a short term (hospital stay, etc.) or long term basis (assisted living, etc.).

In the past I have requested monetary support for such things as coffee pots and other useful items. I have challenged all South Dakota squadrons to contribute and many squadrons have answered the call. This year the SD Son's of the American Legion have been asked to help with the popcorn fund in the VA medical centers that serve South Dakota.

I know these veterans appreciate the support they receive from not only the American Legion, Son's of the American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary and all service related organizations. So once again, I challenge every South Dakota Son's of the American Legion Squadron to contribute at least \$50 to this worthy cause. Send your contribution to the SD SAL Adjutant @ Colin Royal 143 4th St NE Huron, SD 57350 or better yet, bring your Squadron's contribution to the State Convention in Huron!

Steve Hicks
SD VA&R Chmn.

2009 Spring Executive Committee Minutes Watertown, SD – April, 25, 2009

The meeting was called to order by Commander Greg Lemieux at 1:10 PM.

Roll Call was taken Sioux Falls – 1, Iroquois – 2, and Pierre – 1, Watertown – 6, and Herried – 1. Quorum was met. Elected officers present were Commander Lemieux and Sergeant-at-Arms AJ Royal; absent were Chaplain Mike Goetzinger, Vice Commander Eric Vetter, NEC Bob Bender and Alternate NEC Kerwin Douthit. Department Liaison Wayne Vetter was absent.

District 10 Commander Nancy Lemieux was also in attendance as were several Watertown Legionnaires.

Acting Chaplain Lance Vander Vorst led the prayer.

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

The Finance Report was read by Colin Royal. Fiscal Year to date current balance of \$5348.04 Expenses FY to date include Nat'l membership, postage, misc, TV for raffle @ \$2886.83. Motion by Colin Royal to accept, Nathan Maslack 2nd and motion carried.

Colin Royal made the membership report and said that the membership is doing well thus far for the 2009 year. We are not quite meeting our goals, but we are doing very well on being close each month. White, Lennox and Hartford have not sent any membership thus far.

Colin Royal read the VA&R report by Steve Hicks who made a \$50 challenge for fund raising for the popcorn fund to each squadron.

John Dewel presented the Legislative report and said that it was not looking well for veterans again this year.

Lance Vander Vorst gave the Public Relations report. Get your Squadron information and news to the press and also to Colin Royal who will get it posted on the Detachment website.

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OLD BUSINESS:

TV Raffle was doing well and ticket sales were somewhat slow but going well.

The Child Welfare Fund Donation of 543.75 was approved for the Detachment. Motion made by John Harper and 2nd by Todd Kuck. Motion Carried.

The National Emergency Fund donation was deferred to the June Convention.

NEW BUSINESS:

Accepted the resignation of Bobby D. Bender as National Executive Committeeman and as a member of the Sons of the American Legion. NEC Position will remain open until June Convention.

The Detachment Son of the Year went to David Clyde of Piedmont Squadron 311.

A Constitutional Amendment proposal to add two vice area commanders was presented and discussion led to changing to four vice area commanders was approved and forwarded to the Detachment Convention for approval.

Two fund raisers per year were discussed and approved. Motion by Ron Frenz, 2nd by AJ Royal motion carried.

A Detachment Dinner was discussed and the consensus was that it would add to the camaraderie and Adjutant Royal is to look into it and set something up.

Commander Lemieux presented a program to be held in conjunction with Oahe Days in Pierre that would honor veterans. He asked for funds for a couple of these expenses.

Ron Frenz motioned to donate \$100 to the fireworks fund for the Oahe day in Pierre on June 19, 2009. John Dewell 2nd and motion carried.

John Harper Motioned that \$500 be donated to the pin purchase to be given to the veterans at the Oahe days in Pierre. Joe Stroffus 2nd and motion carried.

The Detachment Convention will be held in Huron, SD in June 27, 2009.

The next Executive Committee Meeting will be set at the Detachment Convention and date and time to be announced.

Acting Chaplain Vander Vorst led in the closing prayer.

Commander Lemieux closed the meeting with the proper ceremony at 3:35pm.

Colin Royal, Adjutant
Detachment of South Dakota