



Quarterly Dispatch

Greg Lemieux, Commander

Colin Royal, Adjutant

Q2/2010



Dear SAL Members

It is that time again. State convention is in Spearfish 17 thru the 20 of June. We will be meeting on Saturday I am looking forward to seeing ALL of you there. I would like to see the squadrons bring all the info on what they have been doing the past year so we can give other squadrons help on their programs. As far as the raffle tickets go I would like to see some volunteers to help at table and sell tickets. We will try this again this year and if I don't get volunteers will be looking at other options for raising money.

Election of officers will be done also at meeting would like to see positions filled with people that are serious about the position and are willing to come to meetings and do the job. We need keep up our good work and get our renewals. National has set several deadlines for example CWF, Membership, etc. We haven't been meeting these deadlines but have been close but I know we can meet them. We have in the past and just have to pay more attention to them. I have also noticed membership in some squadrons is down from last year if there is anything I can help just let me know. We want this meeting to be relaxed so bring lots of ideas, comments and suggestions on improving our detachment.

If any of you get to convention early go sit in some of the Legion meetings; they are very informative. I went to all but two of the District meetings this year already there are a lot of people in favor of the Sons out there so keep up the good work. Hope to see you in Spearfish.

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. 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 or you may mail it to him.

You may contact me at glemieux1963@yahoo.com, 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 is really down this year, we have 4 Squadrons that have sent in little or no membership, they are: Lennox, Martin, Hartford and White. We need to get these memberships in as the memberships have now lapsed and those who have not paid their memberships for the last 2 years will fall off the roster.

The Detachment Convention is now upon us and officers will be elected, so if you are interested, come on out and put in your bid for a position. Enclosed is the Convention Call and the resolutions that were recommended as do pass for the Convention membership. The convention will be somewhat different this year as the format will be that no routine Executive Committee business will not be conducted, only committee reports and information will be shared. Hopefully we will be able to share with some of the American Legion speakers and make things more interesting and more enjoyable.

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 Spring Meeting Minutes – Iroquois, SD – April 24, 2010

The meeting was called to order by Commander Greg Lemieux at 1:45 PM.

Colors were saluted as they were in place.

Roll Call was taken with Iroquois – 1, and Pierre – 2, Watertown – 1, Huron - 1. Quorum was met. Sergeant-at-Arms AJ Royal, and NEC John Dewell was present.

Acting Chaplain Colin Royal led the prayer.

Minutes of the 2010 Mid-Winter were read and accepted.

Heard the finance report from Commander Lemieux for Mike Goetzinger, he reported a balance of \$4638.43 with all bills paid. Motion by John Dewell to accept the finance report, Seconded by Russ Eagleman, Motion carried.

Colin Royal presented the membership report and stated that membership is slightly down and that several Squadrons have sent little or no memberships in. Six Squadrons have surpassed the 100% goal and eight Squadrons had surpassed the 90% goal. One membership was turned in.

Old Business:

Status of the raffle was discussed and that the raffle was proceeding with some issues of lack of participation from membership discussed.

Motion by Adjutant Royal that the charter for Huron Squadron 7 be revoked due to continuous lack of membership and lack of participation of the Post membership in trying to revitalize the Squadron. Russ Eagleman 2nd and motion carried with 1 no vote.

Motion by Adjutant Royal that the charter for Lennox Squadron 174 be taken off probation due to membership being mailed in and Squadron is being revitalized by the Squadron and Post members. John Dewell 2nd and motion carried.

Motion by Adjutant Royal that the charter for Rapid City Squadron 22 be removed from probation due to new Squadron leadership is working on the issues and requires time. Russ Eagleman 2nd and motion carried.

Motion by Adjutant Royal to pay the \$750.00 pledge to CWF. AJ Royal 2nd and motion carried.

NVAD was discussed as many Squadrons have plans in place for the day.

New Business:

Resolution 2010-1 to amend the Constitution for vice commander(s) reading and recommendation to Convention as do pass.

Resolution 2010-2 to amend the Constitution for vice commander(s) reading and recommendation to Convention as do pass.

Resolution 2010-3 to amend the Bylaws for vice commander(s) reading and recommendation to Convention as do pass.

Resolution 2010-4 to amend the Constitution for dues reading and recommendation to Convention as do pass.

Review and placed the Hartford Squadron 118 on Charter Probation for not maintaining membership requirements and failure to operate as a Squadron. Motioned by Adjutant Royal, 2nd by AJ Royal, motion carried.

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John Dewell motioned that we award Plaques to top recruiter and recruiting squadron starting 2011 membership year. 2nd by AJ Royal, motion carried.

Son of the Year forms will be reviewed and revised for the 2010 year as per Commander Lemieux's directive.

Robert Shadwell of Herreid was selected as the Son of the Year for 2009 from a field of three candidates.

Acting Chaplain Colin Royal led in the closing prayer.

Commander Lemieux closed the meeting with the appropriate ceremony at 3:56PM.

Thank you to Iroquois Squadron 280 for the delicious dinner and hosting the meeting.

Colin Royal
Detachment Adjutant

(NATIONAL UPDATE – SPRING 2010)

The importance of VAVS Reps

By Mark Arneson, National Commander

As Georgia's Department Adjutant Charlie Knox always says, "If I can get you to go to the VA just one time, I will never have to worry about your membership ever again." One main focus of Operation Proud Son is to increase the S.A.L.'s involvement with the Veterans Administration. As you read this edition of the *National Update*, you will better understand why it is so important for Sons to create a greater presence and involvement within the VA.

According to our 2009 consolidated report forms, Sons reported donating 252,055 hours helping veterans during 14,262 visits to VA facilities. However, numbers reported by the VA itself are drastically different. They show Sons reporting 14,000 visits but only 16,262 hours. It's very likely that the VA is under reporting our visits.

With the assistance of Laura Balun, Director of the VA's Voluntary Service Office, we are working to close this reporting gap. One problem area that has already been identified is that Sons who are volunteering "after hours" are not being properly recorded by the VA. Most Sons work at other jobs and cannot spend time at VA facilities during regular business hours. They might hold a BBQ or a Bingo party on the weekend. Sons are familiar with our own reporting process, but may not understand the VA's. This is why we need to have an S.A.L. VAVS Representative at every VA hospital in the country. There are currently more than 120 VA facilities across the country without any S.A.L. representation.

Once a Rep is in place, there are no more "missing" hours because he can make sure Sons are getting credit for the work they are doing. He can keep a calendar of S.A.L. events and follow up with Squadrons if those hours are not reported. The VA facility will also become more aware of what the Sons can do for veterans. Another value that Reps bring to the table involves acting as liaison between the VA and S.A.L. Detachments. Reps can alert their state leaders to important issues, concerns and needs that exist. Our membership can not take action if they are not kept informed. When we gather at meetings, we need to discuss the issues of the day at nearby VA facilities. Detachment VA Committee reports should include a summary of activities and concerns compiled by the Reps. We often worry and focus our attention on how to improve the retention rate of S.A.L. membership. But I am convinced that my Department Adjutant is absolutely correct. When we encourage the recruitment of S.A.L. VAVS Reps, we raise awareness of veterans' issues throughout our membership. We offer a complete package that will keep our ranks strong and keep us faithful to the words we recite so often, "Proud possessors of a priceless heritage...."

CONVENTION NOTES

The 39th Annual National Convention of the Sons of The American Legion will be held in Milwaukee, WI this year on August 27, 28 and 29. All convention meetings and exhibits will be housed in the Midwest Airline Center. Numerous tour packages are already available for booking. Tours will include such popular attractions as downtown Milwaukee, baseball games, nearby wineries, microbreweries, churches, museums and much more. Judging will be held for all history books that are submitted this year. Now is the time to be working on the books. Bring them to the convention

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in August. Contact National Historian Brandon Roberts at bsrdetachment@hotmail.com if you have questions about history books or the judging. Additional information is available at www.sal.legion.org and at www.legion.org.

(UP TO NOW #3027 5/26/2010)

CONVENTION BANQUET TICKETS

Tickets for the Joint Legion/Auxiliary/SAL Banquet at the State Convention will be available through advanced sales only. No tickets will be available at the door.

The banquet will feature a choice of Sliced Roast Beef in a mushroom and caramelized onion demi or Oven Roasted Airline Chicken dinners. The cost for tickets is \$25.00 per ticket. Send requests for tickets to Jerry Lolley, PO Box 181, Sturgis, SD 57785. Deadline for tickets is June 11, 2010.

In your request you must indicate how many Sliced Roast Beef in a mushroom and caramelized onion demi dinners and/or how many Oven Roasted Airline Chicken dinners you are ordering. Send \$25.00 for each dinner ticket.

NVC SCHUMACHER TO ADDRESS BANQUET

National Vice Commander Eugene A. Schumacher, representing the Midwest Region, will be the banquet speaker for the Joint Banquet at the State Convention on June 18, 2010. An Air Force veteran of the Vietnam Era, Schumacher hails from Aberdeen, SD.

As a Legionnaire of 43 years, he has held numerous leadership positions at the Post, State and National levels. Schumacher is a member and Past Commander of Aberdeen Post 24. He served previously as Commander of the Department of South Dakota, and has held National positions in the Employment Committee and Legislative Council. He worked as an area manager for Northwestern Public Service Company.