



Quarterly Dispatch

Greg Lemieux, Commander

Colin Royal, Adjutant



Dear SAL Members

Congratulations to the nine Squadron who attained their 100% membership for 2009. For those that have not gotten there yet, there is still plenty of time before the end of 2009. A special congratulations goes out to Lemmon Squadron 66 who had 30+ new members for the 2009 year. Other honorable mentions goes out to Sioux Falls 15 and Watertown 17 for their hard work. Thus far we have nearly 130 new members state wide, however we need to work on the renewal memberships. Several Squadrons still need to send in memberships which needs to be done ASAP.

I would like to congratulate David Clyde of the Piedmont Valley Squadron 311 for his selection as the 2008 Detachment Son of the Year. This six year old is continuously helping out with the veterans at the veterans home and the VA hospital in Hot Springs visiting vets and distributing reading materials and the like. Congratulations David and keep up the good work.

The convention was a great success with many Squadron attending and new people stepping up to take offices and to work with the programs of the Sons of The American Legion. Congratulations to the newly elected and re-elected officers. I wish to thank you for the opportunity to continue working for the Detachment as your commander for a third year. Congratulations to Herreid Squadron 170 as the winners of the TV for this latest raffle. And our first annual SAL supper was a success with several people attending. It is my hope that we can continue this camaraderie at both the Mid-Winter and the Conventions.

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



We are now past the September 9th membership target date and we are 4% 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.

The 2010 membership cards were inadvertently sent out to the Post Adjutants. If you have not received your cards yet, check with them. If there is a problem let me know and I'll get something done. The 2010 goals follow this article, they are derived using the formula adopted at the October 2008 Executive Committee Meeting.

The Convention was a great success with a fine showing of Squadrons. I had a PowerPoint presentation as a guide to the meeting and it went over very well. People were aware of the

progress of the meeting and have expressed support for the continued use of it.

The first annual SAL Dinner was a success with a number of members and families showing. I hope to continue this at each Midwinter and Convention.

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. Also remember that the website is updated regularly and should be checked for updates on a regular basis. And as a way to save money and postage, the newsletter will be sent via email to the officers that I have addresses for and also to those who request it. Thus if you would like to receive the newsletter via email as well as other updates, sign up for the mailing list on the website.

As you know, we all deserve bragging rights and we all should be bragging up our Squadrons. 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!

I have moved recently and my new address is Colin Royal, 1250 2nd St. SW, Huron, SD 57350. Please make the appropriate changes so I get your mail. Thank you.

2010 Squadron Goals

Huron 7	10
Pierre 8	32
Wagner 11	10
Sioux Falls 15	41
Watertown 17	32
Mitchell 18	21
Rapid City 22	10
Lemmon 66	20
Hot Springs 71	32
White 88	17
Redfield 92	10
Faith 106	26
Hartford 118	13
Herreid 170	33
Lennox 174	18
Martin 240	57
Iroquois 280	33
Piedmont 311	24

In Your Service
Colin Royal, Adjutant

Children & Youth

The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation (CWF) has

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initiated an incentive program for donations from Posts, Squadrons, Units, or Salons.

This program will present a banner for display for each 100% donation of \$1 per member. This is an easy program to gain some recognition from national. The application form is available on the website www.sdsal.org.

The Sons of The American Legion capped \$4 million with another \$332,000 plus this past year, remaining the CWF's top contributor.

The Reservation Sporting goods collection is in need of your old fishing equipment. The information for contacting the people in charge can also be found on the website.

And last but not least, you local programs are very important and we would like to hear about them and possibly use them as a model for other Squadrons.



Lance Vander Vorst accepts the TV from Commander Lemieux on behalf of the Herreid Squadron who won the TV raffle.

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 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 1250 2nd St SW, Huron, SD 57350.

Steve Hicks
SD VA&R Chmn.

Sons of the American Legion, Detachment of South Dakota Son of the Year

David C. Clyde

Piedmont Valley

Squadron 311

David is 6 years old and is active in the Squadron and in helping out at the Veterans home and at the VA Hospital. This young man is a great example of what we as SAL members are. Congratulations David!



2009 Convention Minutes Huron, SD – June, 27, 2009

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 – 1, and Pierre – 2, Lemmon – 2, Herreid - 1, Sioux Falls 1, Piedmont Valley - 1. Quorum was met. Commander Lemieux, Chaplain Mike Goetzinger, Sergeant-at-Arms AJ Royal, were present. Not present were Vice Commander Eric Vetter, Alternate NEC Pee Wee Douthit. Wayne Vetter was present as The American Legion Liaison Advisor.

Chaplain Mike Goetzinger led the prayer.

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

Heard the finance report from Mike Goetzinger, he reported a balance of \$4573.09 with all expenses (\$4234.98) paid. Motion by JD Mattern to accept the finance report, Seconded by Todd Kuck, Motion carried.

Colin Royal presented the membership report and stated that membership is slightly down and that a few Squadrons have sent little or no memberships in. He also gave a report on the membership awards of 100 percent and that we have 124 new members for 2009. Also announced five squadrons who lead in the new members recruitment.

Colin Royal presented the Americanism report with information from Iroquois, Herreid and Lemmon and that no other Squadrons had submitted reports.

Mike Goetzinger presented the VA&R report for Steve Hicks, and presented a check for \$50 for the CWF from Martin Squadron 240. He also presented a check from Martin for the NEF.

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John Dewell presented the Legislative report and said that this were not looking well for veterans again this year but that things were beginning to turn around.

Colin Royal gave a brief report for the children and youth and stated that all programs for the youth are important and that the CWF exceeded the \$332,000 nationally and that the \$4 million was surpassed.

Lance Vander Vorst gave a brief report on public Relations and that the Squadrons needed to get out and be seen and to get in the news media.

Department of South Dakota American Legion Commander Huls addressed the convention and thanked the Detachment for all its help and hard work.

A recess was called for 15 minutes.

The Convention was reconvened and proceeded with the old business.

Old Business:

John Dewell motioned that the newly elected NEC and the Alternate NEC continue with the duties of the elected offices through the remainder of the year to the national convention due to the resignation of Bobby Bender and the failure to complete the duties by Kerwin Douthit. Lance Vander Vorst 2nd and motion carried.

The Detachment Son of the Year David Clyde of Piedmont Squadron 311 was announced and presented.

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 Commander Lemieux saved the Detachment \$100 by purchasing the TV through Wal-Mart rather than Sears. The TV Sale netted \$1560.00 which was over what was planned. Great work to all.

The new fall raffle was discussed a motion by Lance Vander Vorst to raffle another 32 inch TV with the tickets being 5\$ or 3 for \$10 with the drawing to be held at the Mid Winter Conference. Motion was 2nd by Joel Mattern and carried.

David Clyde drew Herreid Squadron as the winner of the TV.

National Emergency Fund donation proposal was introduced by Colin Royal. JD Mattern motioned that an amount of \$1 per member of national goal (\$435.00) be given and 2nd by AJ Royal, Motion carried.

New Business:

Todd Kuck and Colin Royal were appointed as VAVS representatives for the VA Hospital in Sioux Falls.

Commander Lemieux set forth an invitation to host the next Executive Committee meeting for the Detachment. Lemmon Squadron volunteered to host the October 2009 meeting at 1:00 , date to be announced.

Commander Lemieux ask for nominations from the floor for delegates to the National Convention in Louisville KY. Mike Goetzinger Nominated Commander Lemieux and 2nd by AJ Royal, and carried. Colin Royal was nominated by JD Mattern 2nd by John Dewell and carried. Russ Eagleman was nominated by Mike Goetzinger, 2nd by AJ Royal and carried. John Dewell was

nominated by John Mattern and 2nd by Colin Royal and carried. Alternate Delegates: AJ Royal nominated by Mike Goetzinger, 2nd by Colin Royal, and carried. John Mattern nominated by John Dewell , 2nd by JD Mattern. David Clyde nominated by Colin Royal, 2nd by AJ Royal, and carried. Joel Mattern was nominated by John Dewell and 2nd by David Clyde and carried.

Commander Lemieux called for the election of officers and turned the meeting over to Adjutant Royal who then chaired the election.

Greg Lemieux was nominated for Detachment Commander, 2nd Mike Goetzinger. JD Mattern motioned that nominations cease and a unanimous vote be cast, 2nd by AJ Royal, and carried.

Ron Frentz was nominated by Todd Kuck and 2nd by Mike Goetzinger for Detachment Vice Commander. John Dewell motioned that nominations cease and a unanimous vote be cast, 2nd by Mike Goetzinger, and carried.

John Dewell was nominated as National Executive Committeeman by Greg Lemieux, 2nd by AJ Royal. David Clyde motioned that nominations cease and a unanimous vote be cast, 2nd by Russ Eagleman, and carried.

JD Mattern was nominated as Alternate National Executive Committeeman by Mike Goetzinger, 2nd by John Mattern. Todd Kuck motioned that nominations cease and a unanimous vote be cast, 2nd by Russ Eagleman, and carried.

Mike Goetzinger nominated Todd Kuck as Detachment Chaplain, 2nd AJ Royal. Greg Lemieux motioned that nominations cease and a unanimous vote be cast, 2nd by David Clyde, and carried.

Colin Royal nominated Lance Vander Vorst as Detachment Historian, 2nd JD Mattern. John Dewell motioned that nominations cease and a unanimous vote be cast, 2nd by Russ Eagleman, and carried.

Greg Lemieux nominated Arthur "AJ" Royal as Detachment Sergeant-at-Arms, 2nd Todd Kuck Russ Eagleman motioned that nominations cease and a unanimous vote be cast, 2nd by John Dewell, and carried.

Past Detachment Commander John Dewell swore in the newly elected officers.

With the elections completed, Adjutant Royal returned control of the meeting to Commander Lemieux.

Commander Lemieux set the next Executive Committee meeting for October 2009 (date to be announced) at Post 66 in Lemmon at 13:00hrs.

Chaplain Kuck led in the closing prayer.

Commander Lemieux closed the meeting with the appropriate ceremony at 11:56AM.

Colin Royal
Detachment Adjutant

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VETERANS FORUM SCHEDULE FOR 2009-2010
(From UTN 3006 8/5/2009)

State Commander Rod Martens has announced that he will continue The American Legion Department of South Dakota's Veterans Benefits Outreach Forums for 2009-2010. The Veterans Forum schedule is currently being prepared and should have been finalized on August 1, 2009 which is the deadline for all 14 District Commanders to report back to State Headquarters where they will hold their veterans forum in their District. We need the location of the Veterans Forums so guest speakers can be notified. Again this year, all veterans' forums will have a start time of 6:30 p.m. in their respective time zone. Department Service Officer Warren Aas will conduct the veterans' forums with the assistance of several invited guest speakers. This will be the fifth year DSO Aas has been on the road conducting the veterans' forums and as of this date, The American Legion Department of South Dakota has conducted 77 veterans' forums and well over 3,100 veterans and their family members have attended to learn more about their VA benefits. To date, we have ten Districts that have finalized their 2009-2010 veterans' forum. They are as follows:

- District 1: Wednesday, October 28, VFW Post, Brandon, SD.
- District 2: Thursday, October 29, American Legion Post Home, Arlington, SD.
- District 3: Thursday, November 5, To Be Announced.
- District 4: Wednesday, November 4, Community Center, Agency Village, SD.
- District 5: Wednesday, October 21, To Be Announced.
- District 6: Monday, September 28, To Be Announced.
- District 7: Wednesday, September 30, American Legion Post, Menno, SD.
- District 8: Tuesday, September 29, American Legion Post, Herrick, SD.
- District 9: Monday, September 14, American Legion Post Home, Philip, SD.
- District 10: Tuesday, October 20, American Legion Post Home, Onida, SD.
- District 11: Thursday, September 17, American Legion Post Home, Lemmon, SD.
- District 12: Wednesday, September 16, American Legion Post Home, Piedmont, SD.
- District 13: Tuesday, September 15, Community Center, Wall, SD.
- District 14: Monday, October 19, To Be Announced.

All Legionnaires, their spouses and other veterans should be encouraged to attend The American Legion Department of South Dakota Veterans Benefits Outreach Forum closest to their home. This is an educational and valuable opportunity to possibly learn about benefits you are eligible for that you were previously unaware of. The forums are free and open to everyone. Refreshments will be served during and after the forums and informational handout materials will be available for the attendees to take home and keep for future reference.