



Detachment of South Dakota
Sons of The American Legion
143 4th St NE, Huron, SD 57350



Detachment of South Dakota Quarterly Dispatch

1st Quarter 2008

National S.A.L. Commander Focus on Americanism



My year as your National Commander is now about half over. I have been representing you in the best way I know how and have promoted the Sons of The American Legion in all my travels.

It is now crunch time for getting in our membership. We have been doing a good job getting in membership but it is time to take the next step and ratchet up our effort. I would like to see every member sign up one new member in the Sons. If we could all do this it would double our size. Imagine what we could do with twice as many members. All the support we could give the American Legion Family programs. Wouldn't it be fantastic. Let's not forget the members we currently have, go out and get those renewals. It might take knocking on doors and asking why a member hasn't renewed, but sometimes we have to let them know we still want them. Remind him why he joined and why he needs to remain a member. Remember that members are what make it happen.

I want to focus on our Americanism program. There are several Americanism programs for a member of the Sons of The American Legion to be involved in at this time of the year. Many of these programs involve the youth of our nation. Now is the time that the American Legion Oratorical program is going on. If you have never seen an Oratorical contest you are missing a great show. To see these high school students speak so elegantly about our Constitution is amazing. Other programs we can support are Legion Baseball, Americanism & Government, Boy's & Girls State and Flag Education. Give some of these a try and see what fun it will be working these and many other programs of the American Legion family.

Again I must remind you that we are here first for our veterans. Remember on May 17, 2008 the Sons of The American Legion will be sponsoring the first "Assist a Veteran Day". On this day go out and do something for a veteran. Also include the families of our soldiers who are currently serving this nation. I know that the members of the Sons of The American Legion can step up and do this for our veterans.

When you out in your community don't be afraid to talk about the things we do, "Tell Them Who We Are, Tell Them What We Do & Tell Them Why We Do It!"

Raymond Giehll, Jr.
National Commander
Son of The American Legion

From The NEC

NEC REPORT MID-WINTER 2008

National Commander Ray I am sure wish to have a great Mid-Winter Conference.



Kerwin Douthit
Hot Springs

1. SAL membership has fallen off this year. South Dakota Detachment in one that is way behind from where it should be. The National Commander Ray has requested that each of you to sign up at least one new members. Let's make Commander Ray proud and get the membership work done and turned in.

2. Lets support our troops no matter where they are and show that we do care. One of the ways we can show them is to work The American legion programs. Let's get involved in the programs of The American Legion.

3. Child Welfare does wonders for many of the children of the United States of America, so let us assist in this great project and give. Do not overlook the NEF and the Miracle Network either, as the help many also.

4. Last year many of our Squadrons did not fill out their reposts and National is asking that we put together a better effort in filling out our reports. These reports show what the Detachment is truly doing. I am sure that National would welcome any and all reports no matter how small or how large. Let's turn in reports.

5. The National Area Vice Commander has called me concerning the lack of our membership. I know the National Commander has grave concerns over the very slow turn in of membership. Let us in the Detachment get out membership where it should be!!!

The Detachment approved the raffle for a shotgun for a fund raiser. The tickets are \$5 each or 3/\$10. The Shotgun is a Benelli Nova 12 guage 3 1/2". If you would like to purchase or help sell tickets contact me at 354-0310 or 352-6790 or Commander Lemieux.

Kingsbury County is raffling an Arctic Cat H1 650 4X4 ATV to raise funds for the Boys State Scholarship fund. The tickets are \$20 each and there are 770 tickets available. The drawing will be held when all tickets are sold. Contact a Kingsbury County member for tickets. I do have tickets if you are interested.

The Consolidated Squadron Reports will be mailed out shortly and they are due back to the Detachment by May 17, 2008. These are important to let the American Legion and the Congress know what we do for our veterans and their families.

The 2008 Detachment Convention will be held in conjunction with the American Legion Department Convention in Watertown on June 13 – 15, 2008. More information will be sent out in the near future as it comes from the Department.

PIEDMONT LEGIONNAIRE WINS COMMEMORATIVE RIFLE

(Reprinted from Up To Now # 2969)

Sony Hemsher of Piedmont Valley Post 311 held the lucky ticket on Saturday, February 9, when The American Legion Department of South Dakota held a drawing for the 'Proof' Commemorative Rifle in a series of 21 rifles manufactured specifically for The American Legion Department of South Dakota. 500 tickets were sold for the drawing.

Hemsher reported that the rifle will be displayed in the Piedmont American Legion Post Home. The proceeds from the raffle will be used to support the many programs and projects of The American Legion in South Dakota.

MEMBERSHIP TARGET DATES 2007-2008

September 12, 2007	10% Membership Target
October 11, 2007	25% Membership Target
November 15, 2007	35% Membership Target
December 12, 2007	45% Membership Target
January 9, 2008	60% Membership Target
February 13, 2008	75% Membership Target
March 12, 2008	80% Membership Target
April 9, 2008	90% Membership Target
May 14, 2008	100% Membership Target
July 24, 2008	105% Membership Target*

*Delegate Strength Target Date

Current Detachment Membership: 70.87%

From The Adjutant

We are now past the February 13th membership target date and we are 5% behind the target. At the national level as of March 1, we have 287 members signed up out of the set goal of 412 for the 2008 membership year. We have made leaps and bounds in membership and thank you to all for the great work, we are currently 17% higher in membership than the same period last year. March 12th is the next target date of 80% and we only need 42 members to make the date.



Colin Royal
Huron

There has been some issues with disagreements on the formula on how the membership goals are established. This was discussed after information on how the American Legion Department and National level calculates this. It was settled that the goal for each Squadron in the Detachment be as follows: the number of members listed on the current membership roster plus one. (Squadron 280 has 23 members listed + 1 equals a goal of 24) This is a low level percentage of growth that should be obtainable for any Squadron that works at their membership. We have a bunch new members throughout the state, all we need to do is get our renewals and attain our goal and then some.

The Son of the Year as we learned at Oacoma, has been a Detachment program since 2003, but never got off the ground. I have a paperwork pack to be mailed to each Squadron and the paperwork will be in there.

Tommie Cisna of Illinois, who is the leading candidate for the Sons of The American Legion National Commander visited during the Mid-Winter Conference. He complemented the Detachment on all of the hard work we do with such a small Detachment. He also said he enjoyed the camaraderie and cooperation demonstrated at the Conference.

The next Detachment Executive meeting is rescheduled for April 19, 2008 at Pierre Post 8 at 11:00AM. This is changed due to a scheduling conflict with Post 8.

Spring District meetings are coming up and I recommend to all members to attend these if possible, to learn as much as you can to help the Posts and your Squadrons. There id always useful information given out at these meetings. Some even have a dinner that is quite good and inexpensive.

I like to see a man proud of the place in which he lives. I like to see a man live so that his place will be proud of him. ~Abraham Lincoln

National Vice Commander Mid-West

Members of the Mid-West:

Let me start off 77.132 % nationally we achieved our goal, this is a total team effort by all the Detachments across this nation.

Congratulations!!

Seven Detachments in the Mid West crossed the finish line of race six of the winter classic at 75%+ North Dakota is leading the pack at 95.424% and inching closer to that 100%, Kansas who is on track to make 30 consecutive years of all time high is in hot pursuit. followed by Montana, Wyoming, Nebraska, Texas, and Colorado. New Mexico, Oklahoma and South Dakota need to move up in to the pack.

Race seven begins today February 14th the first race of the spring classic Goal date March 12th 80%.

Focusing on the future of The Sons of the American Legion begins with membership "Retain, Renewal, Recruit" The future of this great Nation begins with our children and youth, Are you going out into your communities and promoting the Sons telling them who we are, what we do, and why we do it. The children and youth of your communities are the benefactors of what we do as an organization, its that time of the year to start planning your easter egg hunts, get involved, the best feeling in the world is the smile on a young child's face when you present to them something as simple as a dyed easter egg.

I just returned from visiting the Detachment of Kansas where I learned that their riders group makes a trip down to Ponca City, Oklahoma to the American Legion Children's home where they bring gifts and give rides to the children on there motorcycles, What a great way to spread the word.

What ever you do in planning your activities, get your fellow members involved, work together as team. The American Legion Family is our team and most important have fun in everything you do.

Yours in Service,

Mike Moss
National Vice Commander
Mid-West





From The Commander

Dear SAL Members

Thanks for the turnout at the Mid Winter Convention. Our meetings seem to have more members attending. I hope to have an even bigger turnout at State Convention.

The membership is holding their own, but we need to increase our renewals, and recruit new members. Most Squadrons are doing well. Those that are struggling with membership, if you need help, feel free to contact me and I will do my best to help you in any way that I can.

I have been approached by several American Legion Post Commanders asking for help; some to get new Squadrons chartered, and some for help with existing Squadrons.

Don't forget about the Son of the Year award. Start thinking of nominees and let's get this program started for those deserving of some recognition of their efforts for Veterans.

New ideas on membership, programs, etc., are always welcome. We always need new ideas and thoughts. Thanks for all your hard work. It is really appreciated.

And last but not least, the Detachment is again raffling a shotgun this year. It is a Benelli Nova 12 guage 3 1/2" magnum, Black with case and extra chokes. Tickets for your Squadron or Post to sell are available from myself or from the Adjutant, Colin Royal of Huron. We have a lot of tickets to sell and we need everyone's help. They are \$5 each or 3/\$10 and are in books of 12.

Greg Lemieux
Detachment Commander
South Dakota Sons of the American Legion



The American Legion Family
It's not what we do, It's Who We Are...

Determine never to be idle. No person will have occasion to complain of the want of time who never loses any. It is wonderful how much may be done if we are always doing. -- Thomas Jefferson

squadron is permitted flexibility in planning programs and activities to meet its own needs. The S.A.L. has study programs recommended for younger members. One such program, called "The Ten Ideals," teaches the elements of patriotism, health, knowledge, training, honor, faith, helpfulness, courtesy, reverence, and comradeship. If a member completes the Ten Ideals program, he is eligible to continue with another program called the "Five-Point Program of Service." This program covers patriotism, citizenship, discipline, leadership, and Legionism.

Sons focus on much more than just membership. At all levels, Sons support The American Legion in promoting a wide variety of programs. Sons assist their Posts in other activities such as Veterans programs, Veterans Administration home and hospital volunteerism, Children Youth projects, and fund raising. In just the past ten years, Sons have raised more than a million dollars for The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation. Members have volunteered over 223,900 hours to date in 2007 in Veterans Hospitals throughout the country and raised over \$915,688 that has gone directly to VA hospitals and VA homes for a variety of items including TVs, radios, medical equipment, and clothing for the patients. There are many men who are members of, both, The American Legion and the Sons of The American Legion. Often, these individuals started out as young members of the Sons. Then, when they were old enough to serve the military, they also became eligible to join The Legion. Such individuals are known within our organization as dual members.

The Sons of The American Legion is one of many organizations that sponsors and supports the Citizens Flag Alliance, a coalition formed to secure flag protection legislation through an amendment to the U.S. Constitution. S.A.L. volunteers work to establish local networks by having petitions available and handing out informational material. They alert their communities to the importance of respect for the flag and they encourage flag education programs in schools and other local organizations.

And so, my fellow Americans, ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country. -- John F. Kennedy



Action to place Wagner 11, Rapid City 22, and N. Sioux City 319 on probation has been postponed until the Detachment Convention in June.

Proposed 2007-2008 budgets were presented with Bob Bender's motion to accept the budget presented by Finance Officer Pee Wee Douthit. 2nd by John Dewel, Carried.

Commander Lemieux proposed that the award for the Detachment Son of the Year program be a Plaque from the Detachment. Motioned by Pee Wee Douthit, 2nd by Eric Vetter, Carried.

The change to the Constitution, Article VIII Finances, Section 5 has been tabled for further input by Commander Lemieux.

Commander Lemieux set the next Executive Committee meeting for April 26, 2008 at Post 8 in Pierre at 13:00hrs.

Chaplain Goetzinger led in the closing prayer.

Commander Lemieux closed the meeting with the appropriate ceremony at 13:29 PM.

Colin Royal
Detachment Adjutant

ABOUT THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

The Sons of The American Legion was created in 1932 as an organization within The American Legion. The S.A.L. is made up of boys and men of all ages whose parents or grandparents served in the United States military and became eligible for membership in The American Legion. Together, members of The American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary and the Sons of The American Legion make up what is known as The Legion Family. All three organizations place high importance on preserving our American traditions and values, improving the quality of life for our nation's children, caring for veterans and their families, and perhaps most importantly, teaching the fundamentals of good citizenship. Sons have always assisted Legionnaires with Legion Family programs. Our Family boasts a combined total membership of nearly 4.2 million members. This year, Sons attained an all time high national membership of over 315,000. The largest Detachment, Pennsylvania, has over 38,000 members. Trophies and awards are given to Detachments and Squadrons for the largest membership and the largest increase in membership.

Just as each Legion post determines the extent of its service to the community, state, and nation, each S.A.L.

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION DETACHMENT OF SOUTH DAKOTA

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Past Detachment Commander

2008 Mid-Winter Conference Minutes Oacoma, SD – February 9, 2008

The meeting was called to order by Commander Greg Lemieux at 10:39 AM.

Colors were saluted as the were in place.

Roll Call was taken Herried – 2, Martin – 1, Iroquois – 2, and Pierre – 4, Watertown – 1, Hot Springs – 1, Hartford – 1. Quorum was met. NEC Pee Wee Douthit and Alternate NEW Bobby Bender was present. Wayne Vetter was present as The American Legion Liaison Advisor.

Chaplain Mike Goetzinger led the prayer.

Minutes of the 2007 Mid-Winter Conference were read and accepted as amended. Motion by John Dewel, 2nd by Robert Weisbeck.

Heard the finance report from Pee Wee Douthit, he reported a balance of \$3913.67 with all bills paid. Motion by Mike Goetzinger to accept the finance report, Seconded by Lance Vander-Vorst, Motion carried. It was also reported that under the new IRS rules, that with an EIN (Employment Identification Number) that the Detachment would have to complete IRS Form 990 this year and each and every year after.

NEC Douthit presented a prepared report for the NEC. One of the major concerns is that the membership is way down this year and that each member should try to sign at least one new member.

Colin Royal presented the membership report and stated that membership is down and that several Squadrons have sent little or no memberships in. Also it was identified that the Kimball Squadron 130 was incorrectly identified at the last Mid-Winter Conference as Chamberlain and it is recommended that the probationary period be restarted. Huron Squadron has acquired 5 members sine early January and is recommended that the probation period for Huron be extended. De Smet Post 138 and Redfield Post 92 have held meetings concerning new Squadrons, hopefully they will accomplish this prior to June.

Colin Royal presented the Americanism report with only information from Squadron 280 of Iroquois and that no other Squadrons had submitted reports. Also he has the Consolidated Squadron Reports (CSR) and will be sending them out in the near future.

Mike Goetzinger presented the VA&R report for Steve Hicks, on the coffee pots Martin Squadron 240 presented the VA last year and presented a check for \$100 for the CWF.

John Dewel presented the Legislative report and said that this were not looking well for veterans again this year. He also reported that the new Sioux Falls VA Chief would be at the Department meeting today.

Department Commander Gary Watts joined us briefly and expressed his appreciation for the hard work and support by the Detachment.

Tommy Cisna of Illinois, the leading candidate for the Sons of The American Legion National Commander joined our meeting and spoke of his hopes and desires as the National Commander. He also complimented the Detachment on the camaraderie and cooperation he has noticed within our Detachment.

Old Business:

Approved reimbursement of Shotgun and tickets to Red Vetter and Eric Vetter. A shotgun was again chosen rather than the rifle which would be far to expensive at this time. Motion by Eric Vetter, 2nd by AJ Royal, Motion Carried.

Adjutant Royal will contact the Secretary of State with the raffle information. The gun will be stored at Post 8 in Pierre and it can travel as needed.

Commander Greg Lemieux said the Herried Charter was presented to the Herried Squadron on January 23, 2008. Herried had a fantastic program and it was a treat to be there.

Commander Lemieux stated that he did not wish to revoke any charters until all avenues had been taken.

Motion to postpone Huron Squadron 7 Charter revocation until Detachment Convention in June by Pee Wee Douthit, 2nd by Mike Goetzinger, Carried.

Motion to postpone Wessington Springs Squadron 14 Charter revocation until Detachment Convention in June by Pee Wee Douthit, 2nd by Mike Goetzinger, Carried.

Motion to postpone Claremont Squadron 262 Charter revocation until Detachment Convention in June by Pee Wee Douthit, 2nd by Mike Goetzinger, Carried.

Motion to restart Kimball Squadron 130 Charter probation period effective immediately by Pee Wee Douthit, 2nd by Mike Goetzinger, Carried

New Business:

Motion by Bob Bender to offer \$300 cash instead of the shotgun if the winner so chooses. 2nd by Eric Vetter, Carried

Motion by Bob Bender that the Detachment purchase the banquet tickets for the Detachment Commander and his wife, to include all future visiting dignitaries. 2nd by John Dewel, Carried.