



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



# Detachment of South Dakota Quarterly Dispatch

2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2008

## National S.A.L. Commander Raymond P. Giehl Jr.



It's finally May and time for the first National Veterans Assistance Day. The Sons of the American Legion is sponsoring May 17th as a day to do something for our veterans. We owe these veterans a debt that we can never repay them. National Veterans Assistance Day is just one way we can try to repay them for there service to our nation. Without our veterans service to our nation we would not be members of the Sons of The American Legion or for that matter be here today as free Americans. On May 17th I am asking every member to do something for a veteran. It can be as small as just making a visit and spreading some cheer or giving a helping hand aroud the house. What ever you plan to do make it meaningful and from the heart. Also remember to include those families of current active duty service men & woman. As I have been traveling around the country this year representing you, I have also been promoting Veterans Assistance Day, but everywhere I have visited I have told that this was not my idea. I have told you that the idea came to me from a blue cap Squadron member from the Detachment of Michigan, Jeff Meulendyk. As you know Jeff gave me the idea at last years Michigan Detachment Convention. We hope that Jeff's idea can become an annual event for the Sons of The American Legion. So go out there and do something for a veteran!

We are also closing in on the end of the donation year for the Child Welfare Foundation. The Sons of the American Legion has been the largest contributor to CWF for many years. Donations for this year are accepted until May 31st. The Child Welfare Foundation does great things for the children of America. Many grants are given each year to worthy children's programs who apply. The money donated by the Sons is given

in grants decided on by our CWF Chairman Jeff Frain. Jeff has done a great job raising money for CWF this year, but he can always use more donations. Remember every dollar you give to CWF goes to the children. The American Legion covers all the administrative cost, how many charities can make that claim! So help America's children by making a donation to the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation this month.

We are doing great so far on membership, but don't give up now as we come down the front straight away on the way to the checkered flag. Go out and get those last renewals. Remind those members why they joined and why they want to continue to be members. Tell about the all the great programs of the American Legion family. Members are what make it happen, without your membership we would not be able to do the great things the Sons of The American Legion do across this great nation everyday.

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

Check out the Detachment Website at: [www.sdsal.org](http://www.sdsal.org)

## CONGRATULATIONS!!



Detachment  
Son of the Year  
2008

Brent Matter  
Bensley-Rounds  
Squadron 280  
Iroquois



## 2007-2008 TELEPHONE DIRECTORY

**Detachment Commander Greg Lemieux.....280-2448**  
BOX 195, Pierre, SD 57501  
E-mail – commander@sdsal.org

**Detachment Vice-Commander Eric L. Vetter.....380-0031**  
502 1<sup>st</sup> Ave NE, Aberdeen, SD 57401  
E-mail redroc2@hotmail.com

Membership Chairman  
**Detachment Adjutant Colin Royal ..... 354-0310**  
143 4<sup>th</sup> ST NE, Huron, SD 57350  
E-mail adjutant@sdsal.org  
Americanism Chairman

**Detachment Chaplin Michael Goetzinger.....685-6904**  
P.O. Box 124, Martin, SD 57551  
Email - MjgKmg@gwtc.net

**Detachment Sergeant-At-Arms Joseph Reiser.....**  
PO Box 160, Parkston, SD 57366

**Detachment Judge Advocate Russell V. Eagleman.....**  
29684 Lake view Place, Pierre, SD 57501  
Email - eagleman1814@yahoo.com

**SAL Advisor Wayne "Red" Vetter .....**  
101 7<sup>th</sup> Street E, Cresbard, SD 57423  
E-mail -

**NEC, Kerwin P. "Pee Wee Douthit.....745-3292**  
2033 Jennings, Hot Springs, SD 57747  
E-mail - peewee@gwtc.net  
Finance Officer

**Alternate NEC Bob Bender.....528-6630**  
P.O. Box 64 Hartford, SD 57033  
E-mail benderbob2001@yahoo.com  
Past Detachment Commander  
Public Relations Chairman

**Children & Youth Chairman Chris Migge.....**  
1410 Seymour Ave. SW, Watertown, SD 57201

**Legislative Chairman John P. Dewell..... 224-2753**  
29684 Lakeview Place, Pierre, SD 57501  
Email - jpdewell@yahoo.com  
Past Detachment Commander

Commander Lemieux appointed himself, John Dewel, AJ Royal, and Adjutant Royal as the Son of the Year selection Committee.

Meeting was recessed for Son of the Year selection at 12:05PM.

Meeting was resumed at 12:15PM.

Congratulations to Brent Matter of Bensley-Rounds Squadron 280 of Iroquois on being selected as the Detachment Son of the Year for 2008.

Acting Chaplain AJ Royal led the closing prayer.

Commander Lemieux closed the meeting with the appropriate ceremony at 12:28 PM.

Colin Royal  
Detachment Adjutant

---

### **From the Desk of Steve I-licks, SD SAL Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation (VA&R) - 5/15/08**

The Annual Conventions of The American Legion, Auxiliary and Sons of the American Legion for South Dakota is fast approaching. This year the conventions are being held in Watertown, SD-June 12<sup>th</sup> -15<sup>th</sup> at the Watertown Events Center.

The goal of VA&R is to coordinate programs and activities geared toward the support of the nation's current and former military personnel.

Each year the money raised by VA&R is used to supplement our veteran's needs that are living in either the Sioux Falls or Hot Springs veteran homes. It is used for things that we take for granted everyday, like popcorn and haircuts. Last year my challenge was for each SD SAL squadron to donate money that would amount to the equivalent of a large coffee pot for each of the 2 major VA Centers in SD. This year I am challenging the SD squadrons to give at the very least \$50 to this worthy cause. This is not a lot and I feel that each and every SD SAL squadron should be able to meet this challenge.

So, if you want to meet or better this challenge to your squadron-bring your VA&R donation to the convention or, if your squadron will not be represented, please mail this worthy donation to the SD SAL Adjutant ~ Cohn Royal 143 4<sup>th</sup> St. NE Huron, SD 57350

Thank you,  
Steve Hicks  
SD SAL VA&R Chairman

## National Vice Commander Mid-West



Team Midwest: Well our race first race ended on September 12th at 10% and here it is May 15th race nine is in our rear view mirror, we didn't make our goal of 100% many of our detachments got stalled on the last turn. But hey! this race isn't over until we say its over, the race for membership in the Sons of The American Legion is never over, we must continue to recruit, retain and collect those renewals, this is what drives our programs with out this we can not continue to make those visits to our VA hospitals or put those Easter egg hunts on for children of our communities, support programs such as American Legion baseball, boys and girl state, all the programs for which the American Legion supports.

The Midwest is in second place still at 95.622% nationally we are at 95.248 16,000 members from reaching our national goal and 6,758 more than last year. This race will continue all the way to Phoenix and beyond, Membership is everyones responsibility, we must continue our responsibility, again keep up the fantastic job you all do in supporting our programs.

Race 10 starts today the Race Championship Series it ends July 24th at 105%, So gentlemen restart those engines and lets go racing.

Yours in Service  
Mike Moss  
National Vice Commander  
Midwest

### 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: 86.41%**





Greg Lemieux  
Pierre

## From The Commander

Dear SAL Members

It is about that time of year again. State Convention is just around the corner, June 12-15, 2008, Watertown, South Dakota. I look forward to seeing each and every one of you there. The input from our members is important for this Detachment to grow. I know there are a lot of new ideas out there and I would like you to share them.

We have gained new members and hopefully we will have two new Squadrons soon. But everyone needs to remember our present members are very important to this Detachment and to The American Legion. If it was not for them, we would not be where we are today. So we need to keep on those renewals as well as getting new members. The renewals are the backbone and knowledge of our organization. I really appreciate the hard work the Squadrons have done. I enjoy hearing from you on your accomplishments. As a Squadron Commander I have also gotten good ideas from you, and have passed them on down the line. Please contact me if you have any ideas, complaints, arguments or questions. I will help in any way I can.

Also, we are doing well with our shotgun raffle, but we still would like your help in selling more tickets. Remember the more we sell benefits our Detachment and the people we help.

Once again, I look forward to meeting you all at State Convention. Bring in those renewals and new members.

Thanks again for all your hard work. It is greatly appreciated.

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

Quorum was not met, therefore no voting actions will be taken by the Executive Committee although business may be conducted as necessary and presented to the Convention for approval.

Minutes of the 2008 Mid-Winter Conference at Oacoma, SD were read and amended to include a motion on the 2007 Detachment election that was inadvertently left out of the minutes.

Finance report was not available.

Membership Report was given by Adjutant Royal stating that membership was still low, but still trickling in.

### OLD BUSINESS

The change to the Constitution, Article VIII Finances, Section 5 was discussed and placed in the agenda for the 2008 Detachment Convention. A call for copies of past Detachment minutes was issued and went unanswered except for the 2003 Detachment Convention minutes provided by Alt. NEC Bender.

Commander Lemieux stated that under American Legion Department of South Dakota Executive meeting direction and research by Adjutant Royal revealed that any and all past changes to the Constitution and Bylaws that are not documented are null and void unless documentation can be provided.

Date of June 14, 2008 was set for the raffle drawing of the shotgun by Commander Lemieux. The drawing will be held at the Detachment Convention in Watertown.

### NEW BUSINESS

The agenda for the Detachment Convention was discussed with several items being placed on the agenda for discussion.

Adjutant Royal briefed on National Commander Richard Giehl's inaugural National Veteran's Assistance Day to be held on May 17, 2008, Armed Forces Day. Each Squadron should assist

at least one veteran on this day to say "Thank You for your service and sacrifices." The possibilities are endless for this day.

A suggestion by Adjutant Royal for the Detachment go from one Vice Commander to two Vice Commanders, one for East River and one for West River since the Squadrons that we have at this time are divided fairly evenly between the two. He will submit the proposal for discussion at the Detachment Convention.

probation period effective immediately by Pee Wee Douthit, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mike Goetzinger, Carried

### **New Business:**

Motion by Bob Bender to offer \$300 cash instead of the shotgun if the winner so chooses. 2<sup>nd</sup> 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. 2<sup>nd</sup> by John Dewel, Carried.

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. 2<sup>nd</sup> 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, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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. **(As Amended)** The Executive Committee Meeting was rescheduled March 1, 2008 to be held at Pierre Post 8 on April 19, 2008 at 11:00AM.

Chaplain Goetzinger led in the closing prayer.

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

Colin Royal  
Detachment Adjutant

---

## **Detachment Executive Committee Meeting April, 19, 2008, Pierre Post 8**

The meeting was called to order by Commander Greg Lemieux at 11:00 AM.

Colors were saluted as the were in place.

Acting Chaplain AJ Royal led the prayer.

Roll Call was taken Iroquois – 2, and Pierre – 2. NEC Pee Wee Douthit absent and Alternate NEW Bobby Bender excused absence. American Legion Liaison Red Vetter was not present.

## **From The Adjutant**

We are now past the May 14<sup>th</sup> membership target date and we are 14% behind 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 66% in renewal memberships and thus far have signed up nearly 100 new members.

Currently, Watertown Squadron 17 leads the pack with 18 new members and a membership of 215.38% of goal, followed by Iroquois Squadron 280 with 14 new members and membership of 154.17% of goal and Herried Squadron 170 with 7 new members and membership of 123.81% of goal. And that's where we stand with 356 members paid for the 2008 year. Congratulations to these Squadrons and keep up the good work. Other Squadron doing well with new members, are Hot Springs Squadron 71 with 8 and Hartford Squadron 118 with 7. Lennox, Martin, Huron, Wessington Springs, Kimball, Piedmont, Two Rivers, and Sioux Falls tend to be struggling with less than 60% of membership goal. If you can lend a hand to these Squadrons, please do so.

OK, enough of the membership thing and on to others things of importance, It always seems membership is preached to no end, but that's where our strength lies.

Consolidated Squadron Reports (CSR) are now due to me so I may get them sent to National. Each Squadron should have received one in March when I sent out the package of information. Please get these in as these are our proof of what we do for our veterans and communities. The National Commander uses this information to show the congress what we do also.

The officer certification forms that were sent out in March and those are now due upon the election of each Squadron's new officers. So please get them in so we can get the information to the right people so they can get it to your Squadron members.

Summer vacations and recreation is about to begin. Please be careful and safe in all that you do, and have a good summer.

Also I would like to Welcome Lemmon and Redfield to the Detachment as their Charters are close to completion.



Colin Royal  
Huron

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

## 2008 Mid-Winter Conference Minutes

Oacoma, SD – February 9, 2008

(As Amended at the Executive Committee meeting April 19, 2008 at Pierre Post 8)

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

Colors were saluted as they 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.

**(As Amended)** John Dewell moved that the vote by which Kerwin P. Douthit was elected as National Executive Committeeman be reconsidered be reconsidered and upon reconsideration the vote be expunged and stricken from the record. Motion seconded by AJ Royal. Following discussion the motion carried and the vote was expunged from the record.

Minutes of the 2007 Mid-Winter Conference were read and accepted as amended. Motion by John Dewel, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 since 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 too expensive at this time. Motion by Eric Vetter, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mike Goetzinger, Carried.

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

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

Motion to restart Kimball Squadron 130 Charter