



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

4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2007



## MEMBERSHIP! MEMBERSHIP!

MEMBERSHIP! The mission of the Sons of The American Legion is to survive. We must survive to do all the good work of the American Legion Family. The only way for to do this is by having more members. Membership is what drives all great organizations and the Sons of The American Legion is a great organization. We need to tell our members why they are

members. Tell them about the things we do for our veterans, for our children and for our communities. There is something for every member you just need to ask him what is important to him. Let's continue to get out there and talk to our members we have so we can retain them and let every potential member know what we do. Together we can "Make a Difference" in our membership.

Veterans Day has just passed. I hope every member did something to remember our veterans on that day. If not for the veteran in our family we would not be members of the Sons of The American Legion. Without veterans who answered our country's call to duty we would not have an America in which to enjoy such great freedom. A new program of mine this year is National Assist a Veteran Day. On May 17, 2008 I am asking every member to go out and do something for a veteran or the family of an active duty serviceman. It might be as simple as just paying an elderly veteran a visit to cheer up his day. Do what best suits your community and your Post. We want every veteran to know that the Sons of The American Legion are out here to offer our help. Don't forget to let the rest of your community in on what we are doing. Let them know the great things that we do everyday. As the National Assist a Veteran Day gets closer we will provide you with some PR information and more ideas of how you can help.

The other program that the Sons of The American

Legion have always been proud to be involved with is our children. The Sons of The American Legion is the largest contributor to the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation. The Child Welfare Foundation has existed for over 50 years doing great things for America's children. Every dollar you donate to the Child Welfare Foundation goes directly to the children. The American Legion covers all the cost for administering the Foundation. How many charities can say 100% go to the charity? I hope with your help we will continue to be the biggest contributor to this great charity for our children.

I just want to let you know that I'm just a blue cap member like you are and I just want to see the best for the Sons of The American Legion. If I can be of any help to you, please feel free to contact me. Remember we are all volunteers and everything we do should be with having fun and enjoying our self in mind. So we ask you to continue the great work of the Sons of The American Legion and have fun!

Raymond Giehl, Jr.  
National Commander  
Sons of The American Legion

We need a type of patriotism that recognizes the virtues of those who are opposed to us..... The old "manifest destiny" idea ought to be modified so that each nation has the manifest destiny to do the best it can - and that without cant, without the assumption of self-righteousness and with a desire to learn to the uttermost from other nations. ~Francis John McConnell

## 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: 33.25%**

## From The Adjutant

We are now past the November 15<sup>th</sup> membership target date and we are 13% behind the target. At the national level as of November 15 we have only 91 members signed up out of the set goal of 412 for the 2008 membership year. These figures are from the National website. The next target date is December 12, 2007 with a goal of 45% or 186. We have a long way to go as several Squadrons have sent in no memberships yet and I will be contacting these members to find out the status. As of December 1, 2007, we have reached 152 paid members which means we are now only 34 members shy of the December 12<sup>th</sup> goal. Keep up the good work and lets get the membership in.



Colin Royal  
Huron

The Son of the Year program has been developed and approved by Commander Lemieux. It will be released at the Mid-Winter Conference in Oacoma, SD on February 9, 2008.

NEC Douthit has extended invitation to attend the Mid-Winter Conference to Tommie Cisna of Illinois, who is the leading candidate for the Sons of The American Legion National Commander.

It has been suggested that the spring and fall Executive Committee meetings be hosted by a Squadron each time the meetings are held. This could possibly encourage more Squadrons to participate in the meetings. This will be discussed further at the Mid Winter.

We still need to get the birth dates of all members for national, these are important so that they may eventually develop a Paid Up For Life formula that is fair to all ages of members. If you do not have the appropriate form, contact me, or you can download it from the National website [sal.legion.org](http://sal.legion.org).

All Squadrons, please forward to me, your email addresses for the Squadron Commander, Adjutant, and any others that you like. This is so we may better get information out to you in a more timely fashion.

Congratulations to Herried Squadron 170 on receiving their charter. Commander Lemieux presented it to them on November 28, 2007.

I am currently working on a new look and content of our website. I hope to have things in place by the new year to better distribute necessary information.

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

## HOTELS / MOTELS IN OACOMA

The Headquarters Hotel for the South Dakota American Legion MidWinter Conference will be the Cedar Shore Resort, located on Shoreline Drive in Oacoma. The phone number for the Cedar Shore Resort is 605-734-6376. Additional lodging facilities in the Chamberlain/Oacoma area which may be considered by those wishing to attend the MidWinter Conference who do not yet have reservations would include the following:

Comfort Inn  
W Hwy 16  
I 90 Exit 260  
Oacoma  
605-734-4222

Oasis Inn  
W Hwy 16  
I 90 Exit 260  
Oacoma  
605-734-6061

Days Inn  
I 90 Exit 260  
Oacoma  
605-734-4100

Holiday Inn Express  
I 90 Exit 260  
Oacoma  
605-734-5593

Super 8 Motel  
I 90 Exit 263  
Chamberlain  
605-734-6548

Americinn  
I 90 Exit 263  
Chamberlain  
605-734-0985

[Our country is not the only thing to which we owe our allegiance. It is also owed to justice and to humanity. Patriotism consists not in waving the flag, but in striving that our country shall be righteous as well as strong. ~James Bryce](#)

### Sears Member Purchase Program

Remodeling? Relocating? Sears makes it easy to choose and purchase the latest appliances for your home through the Sears Member Purchase Program, The American Legion's newest affinity partner.

You can also choose from other outstanding, well-known products for your home such as Craftsman® Garage Storage, Sealy® and Sears-O-Pedic® Mattresses, Nordic Track® Exercise Equipment, Craftsman® Lawn Tractors, Kenmore® Outdoor Grills, Televisions and more!

Available exclusively through Sears Commercial Sales, members will receive a private selection consultation with a Sears professionally trained specialist and additionally receive Preferred Affiliate Program Pricing, backed by Sears' Matching Plus Policy. Visit an Appliance Select Center nearest you or contact Bill Gillette at 214-687-8758 or via email at [wgill03@searshc.com](mailto:wgill03@searshc.com). Selections and purchases are not available through Sears retail or dealer stores.



Greg Lemieux  
Pierre

## From The Commander

As the Detachment Commander, I have made some changes. I have added to our programs a Sons of the American Legion "Son of the Year" program. Every squadron should be able to submit a candidate for this program for recognition of outstanding service. My goal for this Detachment is to get membership up and be a strong force in our communities. Sometimes changes are necessary for the good of the organization and to that end I have named Colin Royal of Squadron 280 as the Detachment Adjutant.

As everyone knows, it is membership renewal time. Sometimes we get tired of hearing about membership, but it is what keeps our organization alive. Remember when you are recruiting new members for the SAL, it is ok to sign up American Legion and Auxiliary members too. There are people out there who are eligible for membership, you just need to ask. I asked, and recruited two new members. We have also gained a new squadron in Herried I will be presenting their charter to them on November 28, 2007. So, in the spirit of the National Headquarters theme for the year, keep the pedal to the metal and bring them in.

In talking to American Legion members I know that there are Posts out there who need help with their programs. All you have to do is say that your Squadron will help, and I would just about guarantee that you will not be turned down. Keep up on your own Squadron programs in the meantime. With the holidays upon us there are people in our communities who need our help but may be too proud to say so. Just remember, if it needs to be done, go for it. And remember those who have loved ones on active duty and do what you can to help make their holidays cheerful.

In closing I would like to wish, from my family to everyone in the American Legion Family, a very Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year.

Greg Lemieux  
Detachment Commander  
South Dakota Sons of the American Legion

[If you have information you would like to add, please forward it to \[adjutant@sdsal.org\]\(mailto:adjutant@sdsal.org\) and I will include it.](#)

## VETERANS OUTREACH FORUM SCHEDULE

(reprinted from Department Up To Now #2962)

Department Veterans Service Officer Warren Aas has been conducting Veterans Outreach Benefits Forums across the state during the past couple of months. The briefings will continue to be held in various locations across the state until at least one forum has been held in each of the Department's 14 Districts.

The schedule for future Veterans Outreach Benefits Forums is as follows:

- December 10 - District 14 in Leola
- December 12 - District 5 in Redfield
- January 7 - District 1 in Tea
- January 8 - District 2 in DeSmet
- February 4 - District 4 in Britton
- February 5 - District 3 in Clear Lake

All Legionnaires, their spouses and other veterans should be encouraged to attend one of these forums. This is a valuable, educational opportunity to possibly learn about benefits you are eligible for that you were previously unaware of. Don't let this opportunity pass you by. The forums are free and open to everyone.

## THANK A VETERAN

(reprinted from Department Up To Now #2961)

With thousands of troops deployed overseas, The American Legion has launched a free, easy way to thank them for their service on the eve of Veterans Day. The American Legion is offering free electronic greeting cards for veterans. Anyone who has an e-mail address can receive the special cards. The American Legion site [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org) (click on E-cards for Veterans) offers e-mail cards representing each military service along with the service song that plays when the card is opened. Each card also provides plenty of space to compose a personal message. Please take a few moments to brighten the day of one or more of America's veterans.



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

## COMMANDER ANNOUNCES MIDWINTER CONFERENCE

(reprinted from Department Up To Now #2962 & 2963)

The South Dakota American Legion Mid-Winter Conference will be held Friday through Sunday, February 8-10, 2008 at the Cedar Shore Resort in Oacoma, SD. The resort has established a rate of \$62.95 + tax, for single or double occupancy room. The deadline for making reservations is January 7, 2008. Each individual is responsible for making their own lodging arrangements. Individuals are restricted from reserving more than two rooms. Reservations can be made by calling Cedar Shore Resort at 605-734-6376. When making your reservations make sure you mention that you will be attending The American Legion Mid-Winter Conference. This year's schedule of events is similar to last year's conference:

### Friday, February 8

Administrative and Executive Committee Meetings  
Go-Getter's Social and Dinner  
Past Department Commanders' Social and Dinner

### Saturday, February 9

Joint Legion/Auxiliary/SAL Opening Session  
Legion General Assembly  
Auxiliary Meetings  
SAL Meetings

Joint Legion/Auxiliary/SAL Banquet

### Sunday, February 10

Legion Non-Denominational Religious Service  
Department Oratorical Contest  
Athletic Commission Meeting

This year's conference promises to be both informational and inspirational. Educational opportunities will abound as briefings will be provided on numerous American Legion programs. Plan now to attend and if possible - bring someone from your Post who has never attended a Mid-Winter conference before.

### MIDWINTER BANQUET TICKETS

Tickets for the MidWinter Conference Joint Banquet will be by advanced sales only. No tickets will be available at the event. The Joint Banquet will be held Saturday, February 9, 2008 at 7:00 pm The dinner menu consists of a 6 oz steak and a 4 oz walleye fillet (NOTE that this is a change from the previous *Up To Now* notice). Each person with a ticket to the banquet will get steak AND fish.

Tickets are available from the Chamberlain American Legion Post. Tickets are \$25.00 each and can be obtained by sending \$25.00 per ticket requested to Potter American Legion Post 3, PO Box 348, Chamberlain, SD 57325.