

Check out the Detachment Website at: www.sdsal.org



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



Detachment of South Dakota Quarterly Dispatch

4th Quarter 2008

National S.A.L. Commander Tommie Cisna



What a busy month we have ahead of us. I know Posts have kids parties planned and they are a blast. Posts also have special dinners planned. Many Posts have a basket program or a grocery giveaway, please help if you can, it is so helpful to the recipients and it will give you a lifetime of memories, I know it has with me. Many Posts have holiday activities at the V.A. hospitals, by all means; ask what you can do to help. Please wear your Sons caps as you visit and show how proud you are to be Sons member.

Keep in mind all of our troops that will not be with their families at this time of year and help with the families that are here at home. Find out through The Post how you can help. There are many programs that you can participate in.

Now would be a good time to make sure that any kids that are spending this month in the hospital have a friend. It only takes a small amount of time to bring a little sunshine to the children. Take a little time to find out if their families need anything, The Sons are a helpful bunch.

I have been invited to participate in The Pearl Harbor Event, on Sunday morning Dec. 7, 2008. It is my hope to well represent The National organization. Thank You for the opportunity.

Keep up the good work with membership. It has been going good. You are doing a GREAT job.

This is the time of year to be thankful for what we have and what we can do for one another. I encourage all to take the time to do what you can for your fellow man.

Yours in Service,
Tommie

Experience

Squadron Level

Commander Cisna's Bio



Life Member

Commander- 2 terms

Currently serving as Historian

Various Offices & Committees

Detachment Level

Commander – All Time High

Senior Vice Commander – All Time High

National Executive Committeeman 1999-2001

Chaplain

Judge Advocate - Current

Parliamentarian

Assistant Adjutant

C.F.A. Chairman

Scholarship Committee – Member

Commander's Advisory Committee

Boys State Committee – Member and Chairman

Americanism Committee – Vice Chairman

National Level

National Vice Commander 1998-1999

Public Relations Chairman – 2 yrs

Chairman of Finance – 2 yrs

Vice Chairman Finance – 3 yrs

Convention Delegate – 16 yrs.

Chairman of Delegates – 3 yrs.

Member V.A. & R. Convention Committee – 1 yr

N.M.I. graduate – 1st graduating class

Attended several N.I.C.s

Thomas E. "Tommie" Cisna

813 Lincoln Ave.

Mattoon, IL 61938

(217) 258-8795

cisna813@consolidated.net

"You and I have a rendezvous with destiny. We will preserve for our children (America), the last best hope of man on earth, or we will sentence them to take the first step into a thousand years of darkness. If we fail, at least let our children and our children's children say of us we justified our brief moment here. We did all that could be done." -- Ronald Reagan

Iroquois 280 – Sponsoring Santa's visit to the school



Lemmon 66 – World War II Veterans Dinner

A special honorary program, emceed by Col. David Peterson, was held at the American Legion Post in Lemmon recognized and honored all of our area World War II veterans. Vets from all around the area, including both North Dakota and South Dakota, came and

attended the dinner and program. Many were accompanied with their families. This was a truly special moment to have so many of our veterans from World War II gathered together under one roof.

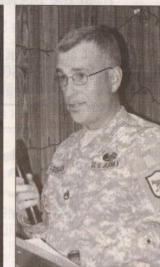
our World War II veterans, and resoundingly a common message came forth to extend to our World War II veterans... "Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!"

The evening offered several individuals who spoke to

Some of our speakers are pictured below:



Bob Kusser of Pierre,
Department Vice Commander



Pat Froelich
VFW Commander



Seb Roll of Mott, Past
National Vice Commander



Warren Aas of Watertown,
Department Service Officer



Greg Lemieux,
State SAL Commander

As Mankind becomes more liberal, they will be more apt to allow that all those who conduct themselves as worthy members of the community are equally entitled to the protections of civil government. I hope ever to see America among the foremost nations of justice and liberality. ~ George Washington

Squadron Spotlights

Lemmon 66 – World War II Veterans Dinner



The local SAL provided the meal for the event. Here they are all give recognition for their help and donation

Herreid 170 – Cemetery Flag Poles



New flagpoles adorn cemetery

There are 26 new flagpoles at the Fairview Cemetery in Herreid. They include 20 new 20' poles for the American flags which circle Soldier Hill, with 10 flags on each side, and six new 15' poles which will fly the flags of each branch of the service. The one big flagpole currently in the center was the only one that was not replaced. The project was spearheaded by the Jacob A. Heinrich American Legion and the Sons of the American Legion Posts.

To be included here, forward pictures and information to the Detachment Adjutant.

Past National Vice Commander - Mid-West



Team Midwest: Let me start my thanking you; the members of the Midwest for allowing me to serve you as your National Vice Commander. I hope that I have held up the fine tradition of the Past Midwest Vice Commanders before me.

It has been a pleasure to serve under the leadership of our Commander Ray Giehll and beside my fellow Vice Commanders, Bob Jones, John Kailunas, John Jones and Tom Marsden. The membership race this year was one of the closest in years, for without membership we cannot continue to support the many programs of this great organization.

My visits began on January 4th in frigid Lander, Wyoming participating in bowling with the youth of the Detachment and ending in June on the golf course in Kearney, Nebraska raising donations for a fish pond for the Veterans home.

I was able to observe first hand the American Legion family's dedication in promoting the programs and all the volunteerism we continue to do.

The Midwest should be proud of the various aspects that our members are involved in, rather it be 8 year old Alex from Squadron 6 Cheyenne, Wyoming wearing his blue cap proudly along with his stuffed friend Mickey Mouse also wearing his, promoting Spinoza puppets, to World War II veteran Bob known in Kansas as the "can man" raising money for CWF by collecting cans.

I also spoke with 91years young Helen Baur from the Department of Nebraska, Auxiliary her dedication to our veterans allows her to continue to volunteer at the VA hospital caring for our veterans. And then there is Squadron 517 Commander Melvin Taylor from West Tawakoni, Texas who worked the almost impossible task of relocating their mid-winter meeting when a fire occurred at their Post home just prior to my visit.

These are just a few of the American Legion Family who's dedication to our organization is the foundation for which we will continue to build on.

We continue the membership race even through the race is officially over, as we know membership never stops. Here are some achievements this year. We crossed the finish line at 100.539% just 2.1% behind the West who was at 102.685%

Southern region-100.447%

Eastern region-99.634%

Central region- 99.107%

Nationally we were at 99.794%

1.) Detachment Commander Gerald Puetz of North Dakota was the first to reach 100%, Congratulation for reaching 113.559%.

2.) Detachment of New Mexico fantastic job at 108.156%

- 3.) Six Detachments reached 100%
- 4.) Detachment of Oklahoma great come from behind finish at 99.281% (you, Nebraska, Montana, South Dakota can still hit 100%)
- 5.) All time highs: New Mexico 108.156, Wyoming 102.388%, and Kansas at 100.188% 30th consecutive years.
- 6.) New chartered Squadrons:

- Colorado-1
 - Texas- 1
 - New Mexico- 1
 - Nebraska- 3
 - Kansas- 4
 - North Dakota- 4
- FANTASTIC JOB.

- 7.) Detachments equaling or surpassing their goals CWF contributions.
- Colorado- 678%
- Wyoming-191%
- Kansas- 129%
- Texas- 124%
- South Dakota-103%

As you can see this year has been one of several accomplishments you certainly worked together as a team, and I know we will continue to move forward for the betterment of our organization. Team Midwest you are always putting our veterans and children and youth first, keep up the huge efforts you put forth in keeping with the principle of our organization.

Thank you; to the Detachments I had the chance to visit for your hospitality and friendship I will cherish these memories a life time.

I will leave you with words that my father once told me "The doors of opportunity are always open, you just need to pick the right one" well I believe I have picked the right one, given the chance to serve this organization in the capacity I have this year and to further continue serving and promoting the programs of The Sons of The American Legion.

Yours in Service,
Mike Moss
Past National Vice Commander
Mid-West



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



Greg Lemieux
Pierre

From The Commander

Dear SAL Members

We are off to a good start but we still need to keep pressing that membership. Please remember to get those Squadron Reports in, they are important to the whole organization.

We have to remember we are here for the assistance of our Legion Posts. If it wasn't for them, we wouldn't exist and we do need their support. Keep up the good work on helping them..

This year we will be raffling off a 32" Digital HDTV for our annual fund raiser. Once again, congratulations to Red Vetter on winning the Nova 12 gauge shotgun from last year's raffle. He has been a great help with our fund raisers and I want to thank him again for that. Hopefully with everyone's help we can have a great raffle once again this year.

On another note, our turnout at the Executive Committee meetings has been low. At the Mid Winter meeting and during State Convention, I would appreciate your input on what we can do to improve attendance. Your suggestions are very welcome. We must get our officers and Squadrons certified. Without that those missing have no benefits or votes. Please get these to Adjutant Colin Royal as soon as possible.

If you get a chance check out our National website. It has been revamped with the election of our new National Commander Tommy Cisna. He guarantees me he will work with us in any way possible to help us grow.

The news clippings from the Squadrons have been a pleasure to read. You can find these on our Detachment website. There are some great things being done. Check it out and get some ideas.

Remember renewals and new members are greatly welcome. Good luck and keep up the great work.

Greg Lemieux
Detachment Commander
South Dakota Sons of The American Legion

A man's country is not a certain area of land, of mountains, rivers, and woods, but it is a principle; and patriotism is loyalty to that principle. ~George William Curtis



Membership

Membership is a subject that gets far too much criticism and causes some problems for some Squadrons. Here are a few things that should be known about membership, yet very few people do know.

Membership is due on October 20th each year as per the Detachment Constitution, Article VIII, Section 5. It is agreed that this tends to be a bit early, but there are reasons for this early date.

It allows time for the Squadron membership chairman to get things sorted out and sent to the Detachment, who in turn has to process the memberships and send them on to the National level in an acceptable time period.

As per the Detachment By-Laws Article VI, Section 2; Memberships fall delinquent if not paid to National by February 1st each year and those person's benefits are suspended along with their membership if the dues are not paid by or on April 1st. Thus, it is important to get the membership paid and in as soon as possible.

Huron 7	5
Pierre 8	26
Wagner 11	10
Sioux Falls 15	33
Watertown 17	17
Mitchell 18	16
Rapid City 22	10
Lemmon 66	13
Hot Springs 71	33
White 88	19
Redfield 92	10
Faith 106	10
Hartford 118	17
Herreid 170	18
Lennox 174	11
Martin 240	79
Iroquois 280	25
Piedmont 311	20

NEW MEMBERSHIP GOALS FOR 2009

These goals are set with the following formula approved by the Executive committee on Oct 4, 2008.

GOAL=(AVERAGE OF LAST 3 YEARS PAID MEMBERS) + 1

MEMBERSHIP TARGET DATES 2008-2009

September 10, 2008	10% Membership Target
October 8, 2008	25% Membership Target
November 14, 2008	35% Membership Target
December 10, 2008	45% Membership Target
January 14, 2009	60% Membership Target
February 11, 2009	75% Membership Target
March 11, 2009	80% Membership Target
April 8, 2009	90% Membership Target
May 13, 2009	100% Membership Target
July 20, 2009	105% Membership Target*

*Delegate Strength Target Date

Current Detachment Membership: 50.81%

From The Adjutant



Colin Royal
Huron

We are now past the December 10th membership target date and we are 5% ahead 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, we are currently 34.26% in renewal memberships and thus far have signed up 71 new members.

Currently, Lemmon Squadron 66 leads the pack with membership of 238.46% of goal, followed by Iroquois Squadron 280 with 164% of goal, Piedmont Squadron 311 with 125% of goal and Redfield Squadron 92 with 110% of goal. And that's where we stand with 202 members paid for the 2009 year. Congratulations to these Squadrons and keep up the good work. Another Squadron doing well is Sioux Falls Squadron 15 with 103.03% of goal.

As we have recently completed our fall Executive Committee meeting, many things have been discussed and some items were adopted. Membership goals, lack of paid memberships, TV raffle, budget, and much more. Again, attendance was poor for this meeting. We did meet Quorum and were able to conduct the necessary business. After visiting with the members and listening to Department Commander Huls, we have aligned with the Department on operational procedures. We adopted their membership policies and more.

We still have many Squadrons who have not forwarded their officers. This is required so we may contact the necessary people for information gathering and dissemination. If you have not sent the information in, please do so now.

The Detachment Mid-Winter will be held in Oacoma on February 14, 2009. The official call will come in the near future with more information. Hope to see you all there!

The American's Creed by William Tyler Page

I believe in the United States of America as a government of the people, by the people, for the people; whose just powers are derived from the consent of the governed, a democracy in a republic, a sovereign Nation of many sovereign States; a perfect union, one and inseparable; established upon those principles of freedom, equality, justice, and humanity for which American patriots sacrificed their lives and fortunes.

I therefore believe it is my duty to my country to love it, to support its Constitution, to obey its laws, to respect its flag, and to defend it against all enemies.

2008 Fall Executive Committee Minutes Huron, SD – October 4, 2008

The meeting was called to order by Commander Greg Lemieux at 1:10 PM.

Roll Call was taken Huron – 1, Iroquois – 2, and Pierre – 1. Quorum was met. Elected officers present were Commander Lemieux, Sergeant-at-Arms AJ Royal, and Chaplain Mike Goetzinger; absent were Vice Commander Eric Vetter, NEC Bob Bender and Alternate NEC Kerwin Douthit. Department Liaison Wayne Vetter was absent.

Department Commander Jim Huls and District 10 Commander Nancy Lemieux were also in attendance.

Chaplain Mike Goetzinger led the prayer.

Adjutant Royal read the minutes of the last meeting and they were accepted as read.

The Finance Report was read by Mike Goetzinger. Motion by John Dewell to accept, Nathan Maslack 2nd and motion carried. He reported that the Detachment is doing well financially after clearing \$1400 from the shotgun raffle.

Colin Royal made the membership report and said that the membership is doing well thus far for the 2009 year. Lennox is the only Squadron that has not sent in any membership as of yet for the 2008 year and NEC Bender has been asked to look into it.

Mike Goetzinger read the VA&R report by Steve Hicks and talked of Squadrons making challenges for fund raising.

John Dewell made the Legislative report and asked Commander Huls to talk about the Department's legislative activities. Commander Huls spoke of the upcoming elections and the changes that would be taking place in the legislative body. He also spoke of the survey sent out by the Department to the current legislative body and its results and that the upcoming year would be a busy one.

OLD BUSINESS:

Discussed and approved the purchase of the TV for the raffle and Colin Royal to make the tickets. Motion by Mike Goetzinger, 2nd AJ Royal motion carried.

Motion by Nathan Maslack to sell the raffle tickets at \$5 each or 3 for \$10, 2nd by AJ Royal. Motion Carried.

Adjutant Royal will notify the South Dakota Secretary of State of the raffle and it's projected drawing date of the Detachment Convention in Huron.

Membership goals were discussed and Commander Huls was asked about how the Department determines the goals for the Posts. Adjutant Royal motioned that the Detachment adopt the formula (three year average of paid membership plus one) used by the Department be used for current and all future Squadron membership goal determinations, 2nd by Mike Goetzinger. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Adjutant Royal presented a proposed 2008-2009 budget. With changes to the Commander's Expenses and the introduction of a Travel expense, motion to accept the budget by Patrick Downey. 2nd by John Dewell. Motion carried.

The addition of a Vice Commander was discussed. The proposal would create two Area Vice Commander slots, one for East River and one for West River. After discussion and concerns of active participation by our Detachment members and officers were raised, item was tabled for further input at the Mid-Winter Conference.

The proposed change to the Detachment Constitution Article VII section three was discussed. Proposed adding the Department Adjutant to the list of authorized signatures on the checking accounts, was deemed not necessary and the action was killed.

The Detachment Mid-Winter Conference will be held February 14, 2009 at Oacoma, SD. Time will be announced at a later date.

The Detachment Convention will be held in Huron, SD in June 2009.

The next Executive Committee Meeting will be hosted by Watertown Squadron 17 on April 25, 2009, time to be announced.

Chaplain Goetzinger led in the closing prayer.

Commander Lemieux closed the meeting with the proper ceremony at 2:55pm.

Colin Royal, Adjutant
Detachment of South Dakota

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