



Quarterly Dispatch

Greg Lemieux, Commander

Colin Royal, Adjutant

Q2/2011



Dear Gentlemen,

It has been a long winter and seems like it doesn't want to end. We have had a good year so far but it isn't over yet. We still have work to do. There are still members to be recruited, and veterans and their families who need our help. For some of us, our communities depend on us. Our society is in need of a lot of good deeds and we have the power to give that. So let's show what we can do. Every little good deed is not just a good deed but sometimes it's the little things that make the big good deeds happen.

We are getting close to our annual State Convention. I urge all of you to make an effort to attend. Our membership is what gives us strength and makes our jobs easier. Let's work hard on membership and keep up the good work with your programs.

Hope to see you in Oacoma in June.

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

"The liberties of our country, the freedom of our civil Constitution, are worth defending at all hazards; and it is our duty to defend them against all attacks. We have received them as a fair inheritance from our worthy ancestors: they purchased them for us with toil and danger and expense of treasure and blood, and transmitted them to us with care and diligence. It will bring an everlasting mark of infamy on the present generation, enlightened as it is, if we should suffer them to be wrested from us by violence without a struggle, or to be cheated out of them by the artifices of false and designing men."
~ Samuel Adams



Membership has been coming in real steady, however we have a few Squadrons that have not sent in memberships, and those member privileges have lapsed. Get your memberships in so we may get it to national. Also remember that the dues are now \$7.00 per member submitted to the Detachment as the dues went up October 20th, 2010.

Also enclosed is the Consolidated Squadron Report for 2010-2011. Please fill it out and get it back to me by June 1, 2011 so I may file a report with the Detachment Convention and send them off to National. The report looks intimidating but is really simple to complete. Just fill in the blanks and check the applicable boxes and send a copy back. This information is recorded at the National level and eventually gets reported to The American Legion.

The Detachment Convention is coming on June 25, 2011 at

the Cedar Shores Resort in Oacoma. All members are welcome to and are encouraged to attend. A list of Hotels and Motels follows below.

Also with the Convention comes the election of Officers, if you would like to throw your hat in and want it published, get the information to me for publishing. There will be one more newsletter prior to the Convention as well as some mailings.

The Detachment is now on facebook and can be found by doing a search for the Detachment of South Dakota. Check it out and send pictures to me for posting or post them yourself. This is the place to brag as other Detachments and National will see what we are doing.

Stop by the website www.sdsal.org and sign up for the mailing list so you can receive updates and information. Also all Squadron Commanders and Adjutants and the Detachment officers need to email me at adjutant@sdsal.org so I can list your email for the Detachment officers list.

In Your Service

Colin Royal, Adjutant

HOTELS/MOTELS IN OACOMA

The Headquarters Hotel for the South Dakota American Legion Department Convention 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 Convention who do not yet have reservations would include the following:

West River Inn & Suites – W Hwy 16, I 90 Exit 260, Oacoma 605-734-4222

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

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

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

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

AmericInn - I 90 Exit 265, Chamberlain 605-734-0985



The Rifle the Detachment is raffling off. A Ruger 77 Hawkeye. 270 caliber

The Detachment is raffling off a Ruger 77 Hawkeye .270 Caliber Rifle for the 2010-2011 year. The rifle will be raffled at the

To Adopt In letter and spirit all of the great principles for which The American Legion Stands

2011 Detachment Convention. Tickets are available now. Let the Adjutant know how many your Squadron wants to sell.

The tickets are \$5 each or 3 for \$10 and are in books of 12 again this year.



National Commander David Dew March Message

Gentlemen:

Here we are already half through our fiscal year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every Detachment for your hard work and commitment to accomplish the goals that I set for us at the National Convention.

Membership is starting to catch up. We are currently +987 ahead of this time last year. Retaining members still seems to be our biggest downfall. We must continue to communicate how valuable their membership is to the success of our organization. By making them feel they are a very important part, I feel they will renew. Thank you and kudos to all of the NVC's and their Membership Chairmen for running a great race to the finish. We will all be winners due to the great work you have done.

As everyone knows, the next three months are very important for our Children and Youth programs. We must work to make April the hardest push ever for our Children and Youth month. This will result in higher numbers in May. I know we are doing the work, but we sometimes fail to report. Please make an effort to complete the Consolidated Report Form, and I know the numbers will shock us all I want everyone to know what a great job VA & R Chairman Bruno Williamson is doing. He is working with the VA to compile an updated list of the VAVS Representatives and Deputies. This is not a job that can be completed and corrected overnight. I have learned throughout my travels that everyone is taking this issue very seriously. There are more volunteers. Please continue to find time to make a difference in the lives of our veterans, their families and in the families of our deployed military. They need us more now than they ever have. It is the little things that we do on a daily basis that count the most.

Always remember... "By Their Side with Honor and Pride."

For God, Country and Veterans,
David Dew
National Commander
Sons of The American Legion
2010-2011

DID YOU KNOW?

- The Sons of The American Legion has the same benefits as The American Legion – see www.legion.org/benefits
- The Sons of The American Legion is the single largest contributor to the Child Welfare Foundation: \$468,607 with 21,935 hours of service in 2010.
- 325 5-Star/10 Ideals awards at a cost of \$5,562
- A total of \$2,175,118 and 558,806 hours of service in supports of various Americanism programs.

"We need an America with the wisdom of experience. But we must not let America grow old in spirit." ~Hubert H. Humphrey



Commander Lemieux addresses the Mid Winter Conference

2011 Mid-Winter Conference Minutes – Oacoma, SD – February 12, 2011

The meeting was called to order by Commander Greg Lemieux at 10:45 AM.

Colors were saluted as they were in place.

Roll Call was taken with Iroquois – 3, and Pierre – 3, Watertown – 2, Martin – 1, and Herreid - 3. Quorum was met.

Acting Chaplain Cody Renner led the prayer.

Colin Royal presented the membership report and stated that membership was slightly down and that a couple of Squadrons have sent little or no memberships in. Eight Squadrons have surpassed the 100% goal and 85 memberships were turned in.

Susie Clyde addressed the membership on the upcoming visit of the Nation President of the American Legion Auxiliary.

John Harper of Watertown Squadron 17 briefed the membership on a proposal for a resolution to allow the Sons of The American Legion membership to expand to include fathers, brothers, and uncles.

Discussion on the proposal of a Paid Up For Life (PUFL) with Adjutant Royal asked to contact the Texas Detachment on information on their program.

Commander Lemieux briefed on the Tribute to the troops to be held in Pierre on June 17 – 19, 2011 during the Oahe Days Celebration. He asked for the support of the Detachment again this year.

Herreid Squadron 170 had a video presentation to the membership about their activities and possible Ideas for the Detachment.

Old Business:

Rapid City Squadron 22 was reported to have achieved the minimum membership required and was motioned by John Dewell to be taken off probation. 2nd by Lance Vander Vorst and carried.

New Business:

Motion by Mike Goetzinger to raise the Child Welfare Fund donation to \$1.25 per member. 2nd by AJ Royal and motion carried.

Commander Lemieux announced the awarding of the 1st Star for Patriotism was awarded to Chad Abel of Lemmon Squadron 66.

Commander Lemieux presented Early Bird 90% membership awards to Herreid, Martin, Iroquois, and announced other recipients as Lemmon, Piedmont, Hot Springs, Redfield, Rapid City and Faith.

The Son of the Year program was discussed and a motion was made by Ron Frenz to extend the deadline for submissions. Also to limit the exclusions for eligibility to the Detachment Commander, Vice Commander, NEC and the Alternate NEC. These individuals would be the selection committee for the program. 2nd by Lance Vander Vorst and motion carried.

Acting Chaplain Renner led in the closing prayer.

Commander Lemieux closed the meeting with the appropriate ceremony at 12:40PM.

Colin Royal
Detachment Adjutant



Mike Goetzing accepts a membership award for Martin

"A thoughtful mind, when it sees a Nation's flag, sees not the flag only, but the Nation itself; and whatever may be its symbols, its insignia, he reads chiefly in the flag the Government, the principles, the truths, the history which belongs to the Nation which belongs to the Nation that sets it forth." ~ Henry Ward Beecher



MIDWEST NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER'S REPORT – MARCH

Greetings Midwest Sons and Those Who Are Reading This:

I am sure we are all glad that winter is almost over and spring is on the way. It certainly has been a rougher winter than most. Now that the weather is getting decent, its time to start those programs we have planned and to work at getting our membership back to the 100% mark in all Detachments. We know it takes work to do what we need to do, but we have done it before and we will do it again.

I have had the opportunity of visiting four Detachments so far and I am hoping to get at least two to four more opportunities. As I have visited the Detachments of Nebraska, Wyoming, Kansas, and Missouri, the hospitality has been excellent and very enjoyable. The thing that has probably impressed me most is the level of activities they have and the quality of programming that is present. Each Detachment has its own little specialty, but they are also trying to work a large number of programs laid out by our National Commander David Dew. I was also able to attend the Commander's Homecoming in Dallas this past week. What a great job they did to help him celebrate his year.

As I look at each of these activities, a common thread runs through them all. That thread is teamwork. No one person could have pulled off the Homecoming. No one person can pull off the activities that occur at Wyoming Veterans celebration. No one person can pull off all that happens in Nebraska, Kansas and Missouri. It takes a team of Sons committed to the cause to make it work and be sure it comes off right. That is the one thing that I can bring to all my Detachments - we need teamwork.

Many of you out there like to be in control of whatever assignment you have. I know because I personally am a somewhat of a control freak. The past ten years I have run a golf tournament for my Detachment and I love it. However, I have not taken the time to train other members in exactly what it takes and how it works to make it happen. Because of my national activities, this may be a year where we do not have a tournament. What I am trying to point out here is that one person cannot be the top dog all the time. If you chair an event for your Detachment, please be sure you involve a group of people you like, who can learn all the ropes, and then teach them and use them to make your event successful. You may be amazed at how much better the event is, how much more successful the event becomes. One person cannot build a large building and have it come out right. It takes help and manpower to do it correctly and achieve the desired result.

The power of teamwork is amazing. As my staff and myself were able to build a successful optometric practice, it was the power of teamwork that got us there. I shared my vision, they bought into it, and we created what I had envisioned. However, it took teamwork to make it all fall in place just right.

So I implore you once more, create your team, share a vision, and then go out and complete it with their help, not you by yourself. This especially applies to our Commander's motto, "By their Side with Honor and Pride". As a team let us go out there and achieve remarkable things.

One final housekeeping detail. Your Squadron Adjutant should be receiving the Consolidated Squadron Reporting Form. There is only one form available to a Squadron. Start working on filling this out now, but remember that the reporting year does not end until June. Commander Dew wants at least 50% of the Squadrons to submit reports this year, so lets work hard at making it happen. I will keep you all posted weekly on membership and monthly on CWF donations, so lets work these two areas hard as well.

In service to God, Country, and Sons of the American Legion,
Dr Jerry "Doc" Leopold
National Vice Commander, Midwest Region

