

Detachment



South Dakota

Quarterly Dispatch

Greg Lemieux, Commander

Colin Royal, Adjutant

Q4/2009



Dear SAL Members

Dear Sal members I'm glad to see the membership numbers going up. I have been doing a lot of traveling all over the state. I have met a lot of good people with a lot of good ideas. I attended a community covenant program in Sioux Falls a veterans supper in Lemmon. In which the squadron post and auxiliary did a awesome job. I attended almost all of the district meetings which taught me a lot. There is so much info out there all we have to do is get interested in finding out what's out there and ask.

I have a story I would like to share with all of you. Me and my wife were hunting pheasants opening weekend and we come upon a chocolate lab pup some body had dumped off out by the damn. We stopped and picked her up she was friendly hungry and thirsty. Immediately we called the police to see if there was a report of a lost dog. They said no but we could bring her to them and if they couldn't find owner would have to be put down. That wasn't happening in my book so we took her home got a kennel etc. We asked around to try to find owner but no luck. We really didn't have the means to have a dog of that size in our living arrangements but wasn't going to put her down or just dump her off. She is a really good dog well we still have her until tomorrow morning. Then she is going to a good home. My wife had finally got on the computer and email a few of our friends and let them know about this dog. Less then an hour later we had emails from friends and people we didn't even know wanting this dog. Of course I had to screen the people cause not just anybody will get this beautiful dog. Yeah, I got attached to her real bad. I guess what I'm saying is if you really believe in something that is special to you and you need help info or anything . Get the info out there cause their will be somebody that will help with your cause no matter what it is. And yes Sara the chocolate lab has a loving and caring home to go to thanks to the help of those that did care to help me. There is a lot of help out there just ask.

Remember we will be raffling off a TV and coat at mid winter I would appreciate some help at the table at Oacoma. We also have the Harried squadron doing the program DVDS FOR VETS so help get those DVDS and I will be presenting this class with a plaque for their work. If your squadron has an event they are involved in or the post does let us know. For those that couldn't make it the going home memorial that was dedicated in Sioux Falls was beautiful you all need to see it. Mid winter is approaching would like to see all of you there Have a good thanks giving and don't stuff yourselves to much. Oh and thanks to the Lemmon squadron for the TV I won in the raffle they held . Keep up the great work and communicate with one another it does pay off.

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



We are now past the November 17th membership target date and we are .28% behind 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, however it is not over yet and we need to get the renewals in.

We still have many Squadrons who have not sent in their officer certifications. Check your records and forward

them ASAP so we can get the information to th right people.

New item added to this newsletter is the "Squadrons On The Move", which will highlight the Squadron(s) activities and allow them space for bragging rights. Two of the Squadrons are Herreid and Lemmon this quarter. Hats off to Herreid and the boys for their unique program and to Lemmon for their veterans support. Unfortunately we don't always get things right in recognizing the Squadrons for what they do and this will provide that recognition.

Also included is the National Program "Operation Proud Son" for your information and action. This is a Detachment wide activity and all Squadrons are eligible and encouraged to participate.

Tickets are available now to sell or purchase for the TV raffle for the Mid Winter Conference. If you would like some, contact me at 605-354-0310 and let me know how many you would like. This will be the first if two raffles this year. Also there will be an additional jacket raffle at the Mid Winter for the three days only.

In an effort to cut costs and to use the internet better, email will be the choice of correspondence in the future. All Squadron Commanders and Adjutants and Detachment Officers should forward their email address to me "adjutant@sdsal.org" or preferably sign up for the mailing list at the website "www.sdsal.org " and scroll down. Just fill in the blanks and send and you'll get a confirmation email and just follow the instructions.

In Your Service
Colin Royal, Adjutant



Mark E. Arneson (GA)
National Commander
Sons of The American Legion

Mark Arneson was elected National Commander at the 38th Annual National Convention of the Sons of The American Legion held in Louisville, Kentucky in August 2009. In honor of his father, Vern Arneson, Mark has been a member of the Sons of The American Legion for 20 years. Mark's father served honorably in the Korean War in the United States Army and has continued to serve America and The American Legion for the last 55 years.

Mark is a member of Squadron 127 in Buford, Georgia and resides in Tucker, Georgia, a suburb of Atlanta. He has served the Detachment of Georgia in almost every office from the Squadron level up to the Detachment level to include serving as Detachment Commander in 1997-1998. He first served the National Organization in 1991 as Alternate NEC and as NEC in 1992. In 1994, Mark was appointed to the National Americanism Commission as Chairman. He served the National Organization for six years during which time the Sons joined the Citizens Flag Alliance. He served on the staff for the National Junior Shooting Sports Championship for two years and three years on the staff of the National Oratorical Competition. In addition, Mark has served on the Georgia Boys State Staff as City Counselor for a total of six years. Mark is well versed in the Americanism programs of The American Legion.

The National Organization called on Mark once again to serve. This time, he served as Chairman of the Child Welfare Foundation Committee for two years, 2005 and 2006. During this time, the Sons achieved an all time for donations in a year, \$383,000, and also crossed the \$3,000,000 level in total donations to the Foundation. For the 2006-2007 membership year, Mark served as National Vice Commander for the Southern region which finished as the Number 1 region in membership that year. Mark's final preparation for serving as National Commander of the Sons of The American Legion was attending and graduating from the 2008 National American Legion College. Mark was the first Son to attend the College.

Mark is a graduate of The Citadel, Class of 1990, with a BS in

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Business Administration and a graduate of the University of Georgia in 1991 with a Master of Accountancy degree. He is a certified public accountant licensed in the state of Georgia and is currently an Assistant Vice President in the Corporate Tax department for Oldcastle, Inc., one of the largest road construction and building product manufacturers in the United States. Mark is married to his high school sweetheart, the former Catherine "Cappi" McCollum. He and his wife are strong supporters of The American Legion Auxiliary and show it by virtue of their three daughters, Morgan, Ashley and Reagan who are all Junior Auxiliary members.



Jim Gelwicks
National Vice Commander
Mid West

Fellow Sons and Interested People:

It is my proud honor to serve as a National Vice Commander of the Sons of The American Legion for 2009/2010. First, I want to acknowledge my Father's service in the US Navy during World War II and his 55 year membership in The American Legion. His passing in 2005 means that he was unable to share my joy in Louisville. Louisville was a good convention. If you were unable to attend, please talk to delegates from your Detachment. Your delegates possess useful information, make sure they share what they know.

This year National's focus is on working with VA facilities and raising money for The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation. And, as always, increasing membership is a priority. Membership renewals and new Squadron Charters are key components to our goals for 2010.

If I can assist you in any way, contact me.

Jim Gelwicks
National Vice Commander Midwest

OFFICIAL CALL TO THE ANNUAL MID-WINTER CONFERENCE OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION OF SOUTH DAKOTA

The eleventh annual Mid-Winter Conference of the Sons of The American Legion of South Dakota is hereby called, and in conjunction with The American Legion, will be held in Oacoma, South Dakota on February 13, 2010 at 10:30AM in the Missouri Winds Room at the Cedar Shore Resort, Oacoma, South Dakota.

PURPOSE

The Conference is called to consider any proposed amendments to the Constitution and to transact other such business as may be brought before the Conference for the good of The Sons of The American Legion.

REPRESENTATION

Representation at the Conference will be by Squadron, and in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution. Each Squadron shall be entitled to ten (10) delegates and one (1) for each ten (10) members, or major fraction thereof.

Mid-Winter Lodging Information

Cedar Shores Resort, Shoreline Drive, 605-734-6376
West River Inn & Suites, W Hwy 16 I90 Exit 260, 605-734-4222
Days Inn, I90 Exit 260, 605-734-4100
Super 8 Motel, I90 Exit 263 Chamberlain, 605-734-6548
Oasis Inn, I90 Exit 260, 605-734-6061
Holiday Inn Express, I90 Exit 260, 605-734-5593
AmericInn, I90 Exit 263 Chamberlain, 605-734-0985

Mid-Winter Banquet Tickets

Tickets for the Mid-Winter Banquet will only be sold in advance. There will be no tickets sold at the event. The menu includes Prime Rib

Steak with dessert. The Banquet will be February 12, 2010 at 7:00PM preceded by a no host cocktail hour at 6:00PM.

Tickets are available from the Potter American Legion Post 3, PO Box 348, Chamberlain, SD 57325. Tickets are \$30.00 each.

Squadrons On The Move

Herreid Squadron 170



Herreid 7th Graders, Sons of the Legion conducting a DVDs4Vets project

The Jacob A. Heinrich Sons of the American Legion Squadron #170 and the Herreid School 7th Grade Civics Class are collecting used DVDs for the nationwide DVDs4Vets project. The used DVDs will be sent to VA Hospitals and treatment facilities across America, where they can be viewed by service members who are recovering from wounds and injuries they have received while fighting in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Some of these military personnel face weeks, months and even years of long and painful recovery. The donation of DVDs and portable players helps ease the loneliness and boredom often faced during the recovery process in the hospital and at home. The donation of a DVD can be a small token of appreciation for all they have sacrificed for our country.

Since the DVDs4Vets Project began in 2004, more than 267,000 DVDs have been collected. Anyone wishing to donate used DVDs for this worthwhile project may drop them off at the Herreid School, the Herreid Super Stop, or at one of the downtown collection sites. This project will end on Friday, Oct.9, Please help the Sons of the Legion and the Herreid 7th Graders reach their goal of 150 DVDs collected locally.



The large group picture is of Vandy and legion commander Steve Volk meeting with some state VFW officers from Nebraska. They were passing through Herreid and wanted to see the Veterans Memorial. The other picture

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is of Vandy and Legion Finance Officer Leroy Sattler presenting a POW/MIA flag to Herreid Mayor David Vander Vliet. The flag will be displayed at the Herreid City Hall.



Lemmon Squadron 66



District legion commander Ottoman, Detachment Commander Lemieux, Squadron 66 Commander Hess, Sal Squadron 66 Chaplin Colton Damjanovich, enjoying the Vets Appreciation Dinner

Operation Proud Son

The quintessential thank you that a Son can bestow upon his parent or forefather for their service in the Armed Forces is a membership in the Sons of The American Legion! Some of us are fortunate to have the parent that made us eligible for the Sons to still be with us. I am one such Son. I am blessed to still have my father with me. He served honorably in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. He was there when the Chinese decided that it was time to make their grand entrance into the War. For those who know their history, you know that my father was at the Chosin Reservoir. He understands what it means to be in a constant state of cold where his tank engine was the only source of warmth for miles around. He has seen a friend, a comrade in arms, make the ultimate sacrifice. He understands the true price of freedom. For 55 years, he has continued to serve his Country through The American Legion and for the last 20 years, he has represented The American Legion and ensured that no veteran is left behind at the Atlanta VAMC. His service to OUR country allows me to stand here today to serve you. You have bestowed upon me a Great Honor by electing me as

National Commander but it cannot rival the title he has given to me, A Proud Son of a Priceless Veteran. "Thank you for your service, Sir."

Treat the Sons As A Business

Under Operation Proud Son, we will treat the National Organization of the Sons of The American Legion as if we were a business. I want to incorporate certain facets of the business world into the way we operate. A business' main focus is on sales and profits. So I ask you if we are to treat the Sons of the American Legion as a business, what would be our sales? MEMBERSHIP! And what would our profits be? How our membership makes our communities, our States and our Nation a better place in which to live and to raise the next generation of Proud Americans!

Marketing: Molded in Excellence, Embodied by Tradition

I am a graduate of The Citadel, The Class of 1990. Some of you may be familiar with Pat Conroy and the Lords of Discipline, a book where Conroy shared his trials and tribulations as a cadet. He talked about this elite group known as the "10" who ran the school from within. While the "10" did not exist during my years, there was a group known as the Junior Sword Drill who was a select group who fashioned themselves as the best of the best of the best in their class. Their motto: Molded in Excellence, Embodied by Tradition. We, too, are molded in excellence and embodied by tradition and are the best of the best. . The Sons were created in the image of our creator, The American Legion. We are embodied by the traditions of The American Legion and have adopted their purposes and policies. Under this marketing campaign, we will grow our membership. By becoming a member of the Sons, you have chosen not to forget your parent's service to this great country but to instead honor it. You're eligibility to be a part of the world's greatest veteran service organization was earned by another. These veterans, our heroes, have molded for us a great organization to carry out the traditions that are a part of us and make this country better. You cannot enter by simply filling an application and paying the dues. As a Son, you are a part of something very special and part of a bigger cause. Americans are looking and wanting and needing something to believe in and to be a part of. To me there is nothing more American than to be a member of the Sons. Everywhere you turn, people believe in the Great Men and Women who bravely serve our Country and want to support them. We, the American Legion family, offer the means to do so. The American Legion has reaffirmed its commitment to our Nation's soldier by signing the Armed Forces Community Covenant. We state that our hometowns, the communities where we live, will support the troops and their families. People see our good deeds and want to be a part of it. In addition, the positive PR that our National Commander of The American Legion has created these past few months with victories for veterans in Washington has created for us an opportunity to grow and bring in new members. While we sell the prospective member using this marketing strategy, we can also use it with our parent organization. Despite our growth over the years, I am still asked by Legion family members from around the country what are the Sons and what do they do. There still exists a mystique to the Sons and a vague understanding of what we are about. The names in our organizational structure are different; Department vs. Detachment, Post vs. Squadron, but our purposes and policies are the same. We need to support their efforts. A large part of the Sons growth in Georgia is because of how we changed our focus. It used to be that the Detachment Commander picked his own Commander's project. We changed that and now every year our Commander's project is the same as the Legion Commander's project which is to raise \$100,000 each year to support the VA hospitals and State Veteran homes that Georgia's veterans receive care from. We never attended the Saturday night banquets at Conferences and Conventions. As Detachment Commander, I bought a seat and simply attended the Convention banquet to pay my respect to the Department Commander and President. It was not that we weren't included it was more that we excluded ourselves. Now, the Sons buy tables at the banquets and the Detachment leadership is included in the program. We have to show that we support their programs and functions. Planning other activities and focusing our fundraising efforts on other things does not build a foundation of support and growth. We need to demonstrate our commitment to them and I assure that they will in turn support us. Georgia is an example of just that. We need to embrace what our Parent Organization embraces and they will embrace us. By not focusing on what we were established to do and not being an active participant in the Legion family, it is difficult to influence those in Legion leadership to support us. By not being present at functions those that are not familiar with the Sons will not be exposed to the Sons and will not understand how a Post can be positively impacted. On different occasions, I have been asked what it takes to become National Commander. The answer for me is actually quite simple,

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a complete reverence for God and an unquestioning and unyielding love of Country. For love of country, I think of when I was a little boy, my dad took me to Atlanta Brave baseball games. For \$1.50, we could sit behind the plate, upper deck, and watch the all time home run king, Hank Aaron, hammer the ball out the park. I learned that we stood at the beginning of every game as we paid tribute to our country at the playing of the National Anthem. So when my friends and I would play a baseball game in my backyard we would stand and sing the National Anthem before the game. Naturally, I thought it was only right that the National Anthem would end with the Home of the Brave given where I lived. So when the Cincinnati Reds would play the Los Angeles Dodgers in my backyard, I naturally assumed the last line was ...and the Home of the Dodgers! Forgive me, I was 5! Over the years, I learned the true meaning of the Home of the Brave; The Home of the Brave Men and Women who have served this great Country, the Brave Men and Women who currently serve this great Country and the brave Men and Women who will serve this great Country. The American Legion has reinforced that belief and allowed me to pay tribute to the Brave in my community, state and Nation. My complete reverence for God was reinforced by the events on September 5th, 1987. On that day, I was involved in a car accident. According to some, I should not have survived. Only by the grace of God, do I stand before you today. After the accident, the Doctors told my parents that I would be lucky if I held down a full time job. Again, the experts were wrong. I learned how to walk again; I was able to take off my eye patch as the vision in my right eye returned to normal, I slowly returned to a normal life and ultimately was able to return to The Citadel a year later. I made up that lost year and graduated with honors with my class. The assessment of the experienced doctors was one of limited Hope. However, medicine is not an exact science and cannot account for certain God given intangibles that can change a bleak situation into one of hope and encouragement. It is upon this foundation of God and Country; we will go forth into the 2009-2010 administrative year of the Sons with two visions.

Our First Vision Is The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation.

Since 1994, the Sons have made the statement to The American Legion family that we will take care of this program by consistently being the TOP contributor to the Foundation. As you heard this weekend, our contributions to CWF do not go unrecognized. We receive accolades for what we do. This is our marquee program. Three short years ago, we hit the \$3 million donation mark, this year we passed the \$4 million donation mark. 20 years who would have thought we would hit the \$1 million donation mark much less the \$2 million mark. This year, we will ask you to do it again. To be the top contributor for the 17th consecutive year and make this the top C&Y project throughout all Detachments for 2010. We have set a goal of \$500,000. We have sought pledges from Detachments. To date, we have received pledges of \$483,000. That \$1 donation to the Foundation pays off in three ways. Having been elected National Commander in Louisville, KY, horse racing country, I will use the horse racing lingo of Win, Place, and Show to illustrate. First, we help to make this a better America for our Youth. (Huge Win!) Second, we keep the Sons on top and show our commitment to The American Legion family by continually funding the Foundation. (We, the Sons, place our selves in a place of prominence.) Last, we promote The American Legion. After all, it is The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation. (We show America that our Nation's youth is one of the pillars The American Legion is founded upon.) Every year a record number of worthy causes apply to have their dream for making America better fulfilled with the help of The American Legion. As you can see, that \$1 bet on tomorrow pays off quite handsomely.

Our Second Vision is Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS)

Where we excel at CWF, we fall short on this one. Every time we gather we say we are proud possessors of a priceless heritage. In my opinion, we do not live up to our pledge when we consider VAVS. Throughout the United States, we have 194 VA facilities that have a Voluntary Service office in place with a Chief of Voluntary Services. The Sons have a representative in 40 of these facilities. These 40 reps are a good start. It takes 30 reps to have a voice and a vote on the National Advisory Committee to the National VAVS. As part of this committee, the Sons along with other organizations can make recommendations to Washington D.C. on how are veterans can be better served. This National position is important but we are missing the boat on the local level in the other 154 VA facilities. We need to be represented in these facilities so we can report back to our leadership in the Detachment and our members can be informed as to what is taking place in their local facilities, what issues are the facilities currently facing and what do they need to make things better. When we come to the VA report, we need to hear from

our Reps on the current status. Our members need to hear what is going on in the Greater Los Angeles VAMC, Iron Mountain, and my personal favorite, Canandaigua, NY. I am asking each Detachment to establish a Detachment VAVS Coordinator tasked with the responsibility of filling these slots and educating the members on new acronyms like VISN (Veteran Integrated Service Network) and which VISN Region they are located in. The days of No report must cease immediately. With that as our framework our strategic plan will be called Operation Proud Son. Our ultimate objective will be to meet the target of 350,000 members!

Market Saturation

At the beginning of August, I traveled with the Department of Georgia leadership to Indianapolis, Indiana to The American Legion Membership workshop. During this time, the National Organization and each Department discuss membership goals for the coming year. One of the factors discussed is the market saturation/penetration percentage. They compare Legion membership to the overall eligible veteran population. One of the things that we will focus in Operation Proud Son is our own market penetration. That is, the number of Squadron Charters to Post Charters within each Detachment. As of the June 30, 2009 report, there are 5,747 Squadron Charters compared to 14,151 Post Charters or a Market penetration percentage of 40.61%. As an aside, it is interesting to note that when I first started to focus on this percentage that the Legion had 13,977 Posts Chartered. This is an increase of 174 Posts. Often we hear The American Legion is not growing but rather contracting. Here is a clear example that this is not true. With the Sons represented in only 40% of all Posts, we have a tremendous growth opportunity to take advantage of. We not only need to market ourselves to new members in existing Squadrons but also to Posts that need a Squadron in order to complete their Legion family. Our first objective in Operation Proud Son will be the "**10 for 10 Phase**". Each Detachment Commander along with his officers will identify 10 Posts in their state that are good targets to start a Squadron during the membership year 2010. With almost 60% of all American Legion Posts missing a Squadron, this task should be easily achieved by all Detachments. The American Legion has already created the infrastructure. The Sons simply need to take advantage of the opportunity and capitalize on what we have. If you are familiar with a Post that would benefit with the addition of a Squadron, please bring this to the attention of your Detachment. Any time you can increase the American Legion family, you have made America a better place.

A Son That Shines

Another concept from the business world that we need to incorporate into our organization is the employee of the month. We talk of the blue cappers, many of you that read the National Update, that are the ones that make things happen. Then, what is the best way to show our appreciation? Recognize those blue cappers for their good deeds by designating them as a "Son that Shines" Each Detachment will select a Son that shines brightest. While the employee of the month in a business may get a front row parking spot or an added bonus to the paycheck, neither of which we can offer, the blue capper will be recognized among their peers for what they do in the National Update and serve as Shining examples of Molded in Excellence and Embodied by Tradition. Will you be recognized as the Son that shines in your Detachment? In my campaign travels, I came across 3 such individuals that would be worthy candidates to be recognized as such. Don Nelson from Michigan for 32 years of service to his VA hospital, Dave Perry from New York who travels on his own dime to Washington DC every year for The American Legion Legislative Conference to make sure the Sons in his Squadron are represented and Robert Danielson from Wisconsin who drives over an hour to a neighboring state to serve as the VAVS representative at that VA hospital. It is this type of sincere service that merits the title, A Son That Shines!

The Triple Nickel, "555", the Award Phase of Operation Proud Son

In the business world, when certain targets are achieved; either sales increase, expenses are reduced, or no accidents occur during the month, bonuses are added to the paycheck to reflect these accomplishments and the company has happy employees. We, too, want to reward those Detachments for their efforts and say "Job Well Done". At the recently concluded Fall National Executive Committee meeting, the NEC approved the establishment of a membership incentive program that will be ongoing program known as the "Triple Nickel". We are going to ask that each Detachment charter five new Squadrons, get 105% of the prior year membership, and achieve an 85% retention rate. It is believed that if a Detachment achieves these three "5s", they have achieved goals worthy of

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recognition. In keeping with the theme, we will award the Detachment with an Emblem Sales certificate for \$555.

If God Be With You Who Be Against You

In closing, I will share my belief that the successes that The American Legion has experienced these past 91 years, the American Legion Auxiliary for 90 years and the Sons for the last 77, is not because of chance or good luck; but, instead, when you think about how our parent organization starts off every meeting with "For God and Country", you understand why and how. When God be with you, who be against you. We gather together for the right reasons and the right causes and accordingly achieve all that is good. As we begin this Year, you, the Sons will continue these successes and we will strive to keep God #1, to Keep Veterans #1 and Keep America #1 in the Hearts and Minds of our fellow Americans. It is only impossible until it is not. With God on our side, we know all things are Possible! God Bless!

Mark Arneson
National Commander
Sons of The American Legion

2009 Fall Executive Committee Minutes Lemmon, SD – October 10, 2009

The meeting was called to order by Commander Greg Lemieux at 1:20PM.

Colors were saluted as they were in place.

Roll Call was taken with Iroquois – 1, and Pierre – 2, Lemmon – 9, Watertown -1, Sioux Falls 2, Martin - 1. Quorum was met. Commander Lemieux, Chaplain Todd Kuck, Sergeant-at-Arms AJ Royal, NEC John Dewell, and Alt. NEC Joel Mattern were present. Guests included Department Vice Commander Nancy Lemieux.

Chaplain Todd Kuck led the prayer.

Minutes of the 2009 Detachment Convention were read and accepted.

Heard the finance report from Mike Goetzinger. Motion by JD Mattern to accept the finance report, Seconded by Todd Kuck, Motion carried.

Colin Royal presented the membership report and stated that membership is slightly down and that many Squadrons have sent little or no memberships in.

Colin Royal presented the Americanism report with information from Iroquois, Herreid and Lemmon and that no other Squadrons had submitted reports.

Mike Goetzinger presented the VA&R report for Steve Hicks.

John Dewell presented the Legislative report.

A recess was called for 15 minutes.

Old Business:

TV raffle was discussed and Lemmon will get the TV for the raffle. Tickets are now ready and available.

Constitution change for the Detachment Vice Commander(s) was discussed and was deferred for further exploration.

CWF donation was discussed and referred to Mid Winter Conference for further action.

New Business:

JD Mattern moved that a coat with a choice of patch be raffled at the Mid Winter Conference. Tickets to be sold at \$5.00 each and Commander Lemieux is to get the coat and patches for it. 2nd by Mike Goetzinger and motion carried.

Membership promotions and rewards were discussed and deferred for further review.

DVD for the troops/wounded warriors as presented by Commander Lemieux. Herried Squadron 170 and the Herreid 7th grade class ran a collection and

collected 150+ DVDs for the cause. Commander Lemieux would like to try this Detachment wide with more information to follow. Ron Frenz motioned to adopt the program, Dave Brown second and motion carried.

Mike Goetzinger motioned that a plaque be given to Herried boys for their DVD collection. 2nd by Ron Frenz motion carried. Commander Lemieux will get the Plaque.

Motion to place Huron, Rapid City and Lennox on probation for failing to maintain membership requirements by Mike Goetzinger, 2nd by Dave Brown motion carried.

Ron Frenz expressed his family's thanks for the flowers and thoughts of the Detachment during the loss of his father last June.

Commander Lemieux briefed on the conduct of members while in uniform and that some recent conduct was unacceptable.

Chaplain Kuck led in the closing prayer.

Commander Lemieux closed the meeting with the appropriate ceremony at 3:50PM

Thank you to Lemmon Squadron for the fine meal prepared for the attending members.

Colin Royal
Detachment Adjutant

VA&R

Hello Everyone,

The Holidays are among us and it is that time of year for giving, and giving to our Veterans is always a must as Sons of The American Legion, with that said now is the time to start preparing for the National Veterans Assistance Day to be held on May 15, 2010, a day in which we as Sons of The American Legion are asked to give some time to our Veterans to Show respect for the role they have had and still are in securing the freedoms we enjoy everyday. I am asking all Detachment Commander to make this a Commanders Project in hopes we show our Veterans we Care and we are there for them as they were here for all of us, below is an Agenda to help this happen.

Agenda:

1. Promote May 15, 2010 as National Veterans Assistance Day in local communities at city hall, county court houses, and State Capitols, schools and veterans facilities.
2. Encourage participation within your Post, Unit and Squadron with special events designed to honor these brave men and women.
3. Obtain the National Veterans Assistance Day poster from National web site and hang in Post home, nursing homes, other veteran's halls. Publicize your events in the Media, websites and newsletters.

Detachment Commanders: We have created a certificate of appreciation for you to download and present to all of your members who submit a report on their successful day helping our Veterans, and the VA&R committee and I have an incentive for you to make this a "Commanders Project" attached is a picture of a Challenge Coin we had designed to show appreciation for making this program a success, there will be 5 (five) coins for each Detachment, 1 (one) for the Commander and 4 (four) for the S.A.L members the Commander feels went above and beyond helping our Veterans, as any incentive program there are some rules for receiving the Challenge coins.

- 1) This must be a Commanders project and emailed stating so, email to Jeff Frain at altnecaz@cox.net
- 2) Each Detachment Commander must submit a copy of the final 4 submission to the VA&R committee at or before National Convention!
- 3) This incentive program is for fun! Please make this an enjoyable National Veterans Assistance Day because in the end not only do our Veterans win, we all win!

We are a T.E.A.M (Together Everyone Achieves More)

Please email this to all of your Contacts, I do not have all the

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Detachment Commanders, Adjutants, NEC, Etc. addresses and for this to work we must have everyone involved!

Jeff Frain
National VA&R Vice- Chairman
Sons of The American Legion
Email: altnecaz@cox.net
Ph. 480-620-3216

NOTE: The new SAL Youth Handbook is available for download from the Nation website and also from the Publications page at the Detachment website www.sdsal.org.