



Quarterly Dispatch

Greg Lemieux, Commander

Colin Royal, Adjutant

Q1/2011



Dear SAL Members

Well its coming around the corner Mid winter Convention. We have had a hard winter already and hope everyone one is safe and warm. Haven't done much traveling lately seems like I got all our wheat planted and all the snow showed up. Hope to see you all in Oacoma

weather permitting. Hope the gun raffle is going good and we have a lot of tickets sold we still have till state so keep selling. Keep bringing in the membership and remember detachment and state dues are 7 dollars now. Gettysburg our newest squadron is growing we need to help all our squadrons grow with any help we can give. Keep up the good work.

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



Membership has been coming in really slow and several Squadrons have noe 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.

Enclosed is the Call to the Mid-Winter Conference as well as the Son of the Year form, which has changed to center on the narrative of the individual and deleted other confusing information and will be considered at an earlier date beginning with the 2010 year. Get them back to me ASAP so your submission can be considered at the Mid-Winter. Remember, more is better.

The Mid-Winter Conference is coming on February 12, 2011 at the Cedar Shores Resort in Oacoma. All members are welcome to attend and are encouraged to attend.

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

(From UTN 3038)

The Headquarters Hotel for the South Dakota American Legion Mid Winter 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:

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, I90 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 2011 Detachment Convention. Tickets will be available October 1, 2010. Let the Adjutant know how many your Squadron wants to sell as we'll not raffle it off until the gun itself is paid for.

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



Herreid SAL Squadron sponsors, mans rest stop in Black Hills Honor March

Some members of the Jacob A. Heinrich Sons of the American Legion Squadron #170 were in the Black Hills area this past weekend to assist with the Black Hills Veteran's Honor March.

The Honor March started in 2002 as a way to honor the sacrifices of America's service men and women. The Herreid SAL Squadron was asked to sponsor and man one of the five rest stops along the 26.2 mile Honor March.

The Herreid group sponsored rest stop #1, which was about six miles into the march. At the rest stops, marchers were given Gatorade, fruit, trail mix, granola bars, etc. They also provided water so the marchers could re-fill their water packs and bottles.

Steve Volk Jr. of Herreid was a participant in the Group Military Division of the march. Marchers in the military division are required to march in full military attire. If they enter as a group, they march with four other members of

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

their unit. All team members must cross the finish line together. Volk is a member of the 152nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion of Pierre. His team finished the 26.2 mile march in six hours, 56 minutes. They finished second in the military division. Wayne Moser of Piedmont, S.D., and formerly of Pollock was also a participant in the Honor March. He, along with other members of his coed team from the 82nd Civil Support Team stationed at Ellsworth Air Force Base in Rapid City, also competed in the Group Military Division. Their team finished third in the military division.

There were over 200 participants in this year's march. The march allows members of the military to test their strength and endurance, as well as to bring attention to the sacrifices made by our military members across the globe. Money raised through sponsorships and entry fees will be used for college scholarships for the children of military personnel.



History of Honor March: The Black Hills Veteran's Honor March was conceived in 2002 as a way to honor the sacrifices of the nation's service men and women. The 26.2 mile march takes place in the picturesque Black Hills National Forest on the Mickelson Trail. The March is held on a weekend at the end of September.

The Honor March, which is conducted under the auspices of the South Dakota National Guard Enlisted Association (SDNGEA), grew out of an idea that originated from some South Dakota Army National Guard soldiers who had participated in the Bataan Memorial Death March. It was during the long ride home from White Sands, N.M., that the idea of a commemorative march could be held to honor all Veterans, and that the Black Hills would be a perfect place to hold such an event. Since the Bataan Memorial Death March takes place in late March-early April, the consensus was that this new event should be held later in the year.

On Sept. 21, 2002, seven members of the Army National Guard traveled to Deadwood, S.D. and set out to reconnoiter the proposed march route and establish sites for water points, rest stops and lodging requirements. Ted Deloy, Michael Jones, Matt Lacroix, Ben Lamp, Jeff Nord, Ben Smetana and Mark Thomas were members of the recon team and laid the foundation for this event. The route today closely matches the original route from Rochford to Deadwood, the only change being the decision to end at the Rodeo grounds as compared to Main Street Deadwood.

After completing the dry run in September 2002, the marchers compiled notes and ideas. Due to mobilization in 2003, the idea had to wait to be presented to the SDNGEA at the state conference in April 2004. The decision was made to have the inaugural march start in September 2004. Since its inception, the memorial march has grown to hundreds of marchers from across the United States. Both military and civilian categories are offered.

MIDWINTER BANQUET TICKETS

(From UTN 3038)

Tickets for the Mid Winter Conference Joint Banquet will be by advance sale only. No tickets will be available at the event. The Joint Banquet will be held Friday, February 11, 2011, at 7:00 p.m. The event will be preceded by a no-host cocktail hour commencing at 6:00 p.m.

Tickets are \$30.00 each and can be obtained by sending \$30.00 per ticket requested to, Potter American Legion Post 3, PO Box 348, Chamberlain, SD 57325.



MIDWEST NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER'S REPORT – JANUARY

Greetings Midwest Sons and all Sons reading this column:

We have entered into the New Year, full of promise and loaded with opportunity. This is a new year and it is a time we can

make our mark on society and our veterans. I challenged you last month to take on a new program, no matter how big or small, for your Detachment and Squadron.

Hopefully, you took some time to think about it. Now is the time to act and I hope you will take that step and expand the influence of the Sons. Through this all we need to do is to keep our Commander's theme in mind "By Their Side with Honor and Pride". Are you ready to embrace the New Year?

This month I want to concentrate on the Americanism Program of the Sons of the American Legion. Americanism is our opportunity to reach out to young people and the public to better educate them in areas of flag etiquette, patriotism and to promote a true spirit of Americanism. There are multiple programs listed in the Americanism handbook available from National Headquarters. If your Detachment does not have one, I would encourage you to request one to be sent or go online to our website.

Flag Education has been and always will be a key program of Americanism. We have available as resources for us a DVD "For Which It Stands", a flag etiquette pamphlet and a book for youth "I Pledge Allegiance". In a time when the flag is becoming less respected, it is critical we start educating our young people in what it truly stands for. This is one of many programs that can be taken on at the Squadron level.

Other Americanism programs that can be done at the Detachment, District, and Squadron level include the National High School Oratorical Contest, Boys State and Nation programs, Scouting, Legion Baseball and Legion Shooting Sports. In particular the Boys State and Nation program is excellent for those

qualified. It indoctrinates young men with all aspects of our government, the political process, and the discipline of honoring flag and country every day. The Oratorical Contest provides not only structured speaking and speaking on the fly but also provides the opportunity to win scholarships to further the students' education. Legion Baseball and Scouting speak for themselves. The Shooting Sports competition is exciting and fast paced and helps develop the character of our Youth. Involvement in any of these programs can be very rewarding for those who choose to undertake them.

Although election season is now behind us, it is not too early to begin planning our efforts for next year. For years the Legion and the Sons have been encouraging people to Get out and Vote. There is no way we are able to affect change in our country if we do not elect good people to serve us and that requires voting. It is not too early to start thinking about voter registration and making plans on how to get them to the polls so their vote can be counted. Leadership from the Detachment can encourage the Squadrons to become involved.

Finally, the 5 Star and 10 Ideal program can train your members and leaders in the many principles of the Sons. It is a study course that is not excessively time consuming, but one that allows those participants to learn more about all the principles of the American Legion and the Sons of the American Legion. A test of proficiency, either open book or by memory, can result in the awarding of ribbons and medals that can be worn with honor.

As I wrap up this article for January, let's not forget membership and the Child Welfare Foundation. At the end of December we are still sitting as the second region in the nation. Two of our Detachments are already over 60% of quota, our target level for January 20. Three more are in the 50's and I expect them to be over quota. The rest of you can hit quota, but we need to start working again (sorry but the holiday is over). Nationally we are 3,000 behind last year so we need to push. On the CWF horizon, we have three states over \$1.00 per member. That is great but I know many of our Detachments have major fundraisers still to come. These will get most of us over the \$1.00 mark (goal is \$1.25/member) so please send in those monies as soon as possible. Our Drive for 5 (million) will make our Commander happy and well pleased so let's get to work.

In closing, thank you to all of you. You are the ones who make good things happen. Set those New Years Resolutions, get your programs in gear, and let us all work for the betterment of the Sons of the American Legion, God, and our Country. May you all have a prosperous, profitable and rewarding New Year. Always remember we are "By Their Side with Honor and Pride".

In Service to God, Country, and the Sons of the American Legion,
Dr. Jerry "Doc" Leopold

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