



POST 15 NEWS



SIoux FALLS AMERICAN LEGION
Americanism • Boy's State • Jr. Legion Baseball • Child Welfare

AUGUST 2010



Commander's Corner Dave Saunders

My fellow legionnaires, another month has come and passed. It was an exciting month with many activities that kept all the Legion family very busy. One of the activities that I would

like to talk about this month to Salute the Troops. What an exciting, thrilling and at the same time a humbling and moving experience for many Veterans from all over South Dakota, the surrounding areas, to the Legion members and for myself to see the Traveling Vietnam Wall.

Personally this was my first time visiting the Wall. I was in awe at the great reverence shown by the many visitors to the Wall. I would like to thank the many Volunteers and Organizers of this event, for their support of the Veterans, those brave Men and Women currently serving in the Military. As we would have said in the Navy; "Bravo Zulu!"

My wife and I had the opportunity to volunteer as "Cart Drivers" for this great event. What a great pleasure it was for us to be of service to the many Veterans and their families that came to this event.

I would like to share with you an experience that I had: I had just taken a Vietnam veteran and his wife to their car, when I was flagged down by a daughter of an elderly very frail looking lady. After the daughter and I made sure her mother was seated safely in the cart, I drove off. I had forgotten where I was and what I was doing, and in a very chipper, upbeat voice I asked the elderly lady "Have you ever been to the Wall before?" She replied, in a very soft, low voice, "Yes, many times." As I looked at her, I just knew what she was going to say next. "My son is on the Wall" Never before had I witness such grace and dignity, it was one of the most humbling experiences in my life.

As I parked the cart, the pair exited without a word, I watched as the daughter with care and love that only a daughter can give; escorted her mother to the exact spot on the Wall where her son's name is.

As they returned to the entrance, I hurried to pick them up and after parking by their car, I quickly got out of the cart to assist this "Gold Star Mother". I asked if I

could give her a hug, which I did and thanked her for her sacrifice. She just smiled and touched my face. I will never forget this experience at the Wall.

I would also like to share another "Wall Experience", on the evening of Saturday, June 26th. Shortly after a major storm had come through the Sioux Falls area, the call went out "The Wall was down." Within 30 minutes of receiving this call many Legion Riders and myself were there and assisting with the clean up and

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Auxiliary Announcements

Dianne Hudson, President

Congratulations to Sue Christensen of Big Stone City who was elected State President at the 2010 State Convention in Spearfish. She will be having her homecoming on July 31, in Big Stone City. Her program starts at 1 pm with the meal from 3-4 pm. 1st Vice President is Regina Whipple and 2nd Vice President is Barb Veters. All are welcome to attend. Thanks to all who helped at the Salute to the Troops at the Sioux Empire Fair Grounds. I hope that you were able to see the moving Vietnam Memorial Wall as well many other tributes to many other fallen comrades. The Singing Legionnaires did an outstanding job performing at the dinner for the Veterans and their families. We are very proud of you. At our September meeting we will be having a potluck so remember to bring a special treat for all to share. We will be discussing our Give 10 to Education and Dictionary programs. If you would like to bring items for the Give 10 to Education program, many stores do have school supplies on sale now. We will also be discussing our care packages for the 196th MEB Unit currently stationed in Afghanistan. If you have any suggestions for items please bring them at the September meeting. On August 11th, all the Veteran's service organizations in Sioux Falls will be holding a Job Fair along with the Sioux Falls Department of Labor at the VFW on south Minnesota Ave. from 10 am - 2 pm for all Veterans and their spouses looking for a job, or looking to change jobs. Many employers will be there. Please see the flyer in this newsletter for more information. I hope that you are having a safe and wonderful summer and remember to keep our troops and each other in your thoughts and prayers.

Commander, continued

the repair of the Wall. I cannot begin to explain the emotion of seeing those panels with those names on them, lying in the mud. The panels were quickly taken apart and turned over and laid out with great care and respect. Then early on Sunday morning as the welder was making repairs the Legion Riders were once again on the job, assembling the Wall and other displays. If it had not been for the Legion Riders, a few members of Rolling Thunders and Patriot Guard Riders, the Wall would not have been ready for the memorial services at 10:30 am.

I was especially moved by the great care, respect and reverence shown by the "Lady Riders", as the panels were put into place and secured; the "Lady Riders" would clean and wipe down the panels making sure that all the mud, grass and leaves were removed. Thank you Legion Riders for you support.

I know I have rambled on, but I wanted to relate these stories to you as a reminder to all of us, The Preamble to the American Legion Constitution which states:

For God and Country

we associate ourselves together for the following purposes:

To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America:

To maintain Law and Order;

To foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism;

To preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the Great Wars;

To inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the Community, State and Nation;

To combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses;

To make right the Master of Might:

To promote Peace and Goodwill on earth;

To safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of Justice, Freedom and Democracy:

To consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

Now, onto the happier part of the newsletter, on August 14, 2010, at the State Convention in Spearfish, SD, our own G.D. "Hoot" Gibson was elected as the new State Commander of the American Legion. Commander Gibson will have his homecoming at Post 15, his home post. What a great honor for Post 15. It is my understanding that Post 15 has not had a member elected as State Commander in over 45 years. Congratulations Commander Gibson on your election, and I am looking forward to working with you and your staff in the upcoming year.

In closing, I would just like to say again thank you for the opportunity to serve you as your Post Commander. Remember "Lets Grow the Legion." Until we meet again, may God keep you and yours safe and protect our service members that are currently serving at home or abroad.

Legion Riders

The ALR meeting was held 14-July-2010 with 25 members and 2 guests present.

The past month has been busy for ALR members.

The Vietnam Wall was on display at the Sioux Empire Fairgrounds. We participated in Salute to the Wall on June 18. This was a special and very moving experience to honor all of the men and women whose name is on the wall.

Saturday night a storm blew through Sioux Falls knocking part of the wall down. At 8:30 we got together and finished taking the Wall down. Bright and early Sunday morning (7:00) we were back at the Fairgrounds putting the Wall back up after repairs had been made. It was reconstructed by 10:30 for the service. Thanks to all of the members who helped.

We had 15 members at the State Conference in Spearfish on June 25. It was a very good meeting. It was especially nice meeting members from the Rapid City and Hot Springs Chapters.

Hoot Gibson was elected State Commander Saturday night. Hoot is one of our fellow ALR members. Congratulations Hoot!

On June 25, ALR participated in the Marion Days Parade. We received a thank you from the Marion City Council.

July 4 we rode in the Sioux Falls Mayors Fourth of July Parade. We had about 16 members representing the ALR in the parade.

July 5 we rode in the Lennox Parade. We were honored to follow the Color Guard with about 16 members.

July 10 we were asked to present the colors at the Storm Game. Bob Dysart, Gary Miller, Tim Welbig and Kevin Bly represented us at the Arena.

Upcoming events:

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| July 31 | Car & bike show at Post 15 |
| Aug. 9-14 | Sturgis Bike Rally. We will be at the VFW/Legion in Sturgis all week |
| August 11 | ALR meeting at Post 15 7:00 |
| August 14 | Homecoming for Hoot Gibson.
ALR will provide escort |

POST EVERLASTING 
Vern Haugan, Floyd Wiebelkaus,
Amos Meyer, Richard Forman, Arnold
Oveson, Victor Battista, Dennis Sievers

August 2010

Post 15 News is published monthly by American Legion Post 15
1701 West Legion Drive, Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57104
Issue Number 2010 - 8



American Legion Post 15

1701 West Legion Dr., Sioux Falls, S.D. 57104, Phone: 605-336-3470

Invites you to attend

Homecoming for State Commander

G.D. "Hoot" Gibson

Saturday August 14, 2010

Day's Agenda

9:00 - 11:00 am	Continental Breakfast
11 am - 12:00 pm	Parade to Memorial Park
12:00 - 1:00 pm	Lite Lunch
2:00 - 4:00 pm	Installation Program
4:00 - 5:00 pm	Social Hour
5:00 - 7:00 pm	Dinner
9 pm - 1:00 am	Dance

All activities will be at the American Legion Post 15

Make plans to attend the State Commanders Homecoming Day



1st Vice Commander Thane Johnson & wife at State Convention.

VA Hospital Notes

Darwin Wahlert, VA Hospital Representative

I hope everyone had a safe 4th of July. Also a big thank you to Garretson for putting up the Avenue of flags. The VA has been busy as they have served 26,700 Veterans through June of this year. In July we had a cookout on the patio, a movie outing and a car show and also had a Women Veterans Outreach. On Aug. 11th, there will be a Job Fair at the VFW, an annual review for all volunteer (date to be announced), Aug. 20th a volunteer & spouse annual fall cookout (11:00- 12:30), and Aug. 21st a Service of Remembrance in the front lobby at 1:30 pm. Construction projects are underway so watch for signs and use caution in these areas. Volunteers are always needed at the VA so if you can help please volunteer. Remember to visit or call a sick or shut in **Veteran**.

Post 15 Senior's Pool Tournament

Tuesday, August 10, 2010

12:00 Noon

Light Lunch

Sign up on the Bulletin Board

Winners on July 13, 2010:

1st Place: Bob Jacobsen & Frank Sehr

2nd- Place: Gordon Post & Don Johnson

3rd Place: Dennis Famestad & John Persing

ACE OF SPADES

The "Ace of Spades" game had its first winner on Monday, June 26th. Andy Ellis who just returned from a National Guard deployment in Wisconsin won \$153.00. Andy in turn donated \$53.00 back to the American Legion Riders. He also said he was going to join the American Legion. Welcome to Andy Ellis.

The "Ace of Spades" pot is at \$92.00 and the secondary pool at \$225.00. Get your tickets for the weekly Monday night drawing (7:00 pm) anytime from the pull tab corner at the Legion Post home.

HOURS OF OPERATION

Mon. - Saturday: 10:00 am to Close
 Sunday: 11:00 am to Close

AUGUST 2010

PHONES

Office: 336-3470
 Lounge: 336-0155 (room reservations)

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 Singing Legionnaires Chorus Rehearsal 7:30 pm	3 Executive Board Mtg 5:30 pm Go Getters 6:30 pm Regular Business Mtg 7:30 pm	4	5	6 Road Trip Band 9:00 pm - 1:00 am	7
8	9 Singing Legionnaires Chorus Rehearsal 7:30 pm	10 Senior Pool Tourn. 12:00 Noon SAL 7:00 pm	11 Veterans Job Fair VFW 10 am - 2 pm Legion Riders Mtg 7:00 pm	12	13 Black Water Band 9:00 pm - 1:00 am	14 Homecoming State Commander Hoot Gibson
15	16 Singing Legionnaires Chorus Rehearsal 7:30 pm	17 Legionnaires Stag 6:30 pm	18	19 Vet's Council Mtg. VFW 7:00 pm	20	21 Dakota Daze 9:00 pm - 1:00 am
22	23 Singing Legionnaire's Chorus Rehearsal 7:30 pm	24 Ladies Stag 6:30 pm	25	26	27 Troublemakers 9:00 pm - 1:00 am	28
29	30 Singing Legionnaire's Chorus Rehearsal 7:30 pm	31				

6:30 pm • RAFFLE: \$50.00
COST: \$6.00 or Free Stag Ticket
MENU: Chicken / Corn
Beer Special: Miller Light Taps \$1.00
Liquor Special: Black Velvet - \$1.50
NO LONGER NEED TO CALL FOR RESERVATIONS



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MENU: Chicken / Corn
Beer Special: Miller Light Taps \$1.00
Liquor Special: Black Velvet - \$1.50
NO LONGER NEED TO CALL FOR RESERVATIONS

Ladies' Stag
6:30 pm • COST: \$6.00
MENU: Chicken / Corn
Beer Special: \$1.00 Taps
Liquor Special: Almaden Wine - \$1.50
*** BINGO * RAFFLE ***
NO LONGER NEED TO CALL FOR RESERVATIONS

Chorus Notes

Bruce Naasz, President

The chorus has successfully completed its sales efforts and has added 112 new flag services to our routes. We deliver right at 400 flags throughout the city on eight occasions in celebration of the United States. Thank you all for your support of this endeavor. I will continue posting the names of the businesses that are supporting us. If you have a chance please thank them for supporting patriotism and the efforts of the chorus to promote God and Country.

Listed this month is our West 12th Street route that actually starts on Western. It is manned by Art Wienke and Lee Hermerding. (Thanks fellows.) The businesses on this route are as follows: South Dakota Health Care, Rainbow Signs, Sioux Empire Credit Union, Buffalo Wings, Associated General Contractors, Music Service of S.D., West Sioux Barber Shop, Gas Barrel, Ron's Garage, J.D.'s House of Trophies, Kitchen's Unlimited, Minnehaha County Civil Defense, Ace Neon, Jones, Kramer & Haber, Sunshine, Lewis Westgate, Wells Fargo Westwood, Family Memorials by Gibson, Anderson Collision, Tri-State Implements, Overhead Door Co., Unclaimed Freight, Sioux International, Pfeiffer Implement, Stan Houston, Sioux Falls Monument - Rock of Ages, Gage Brothers Concrete, Shop 'n Cart, Billion Toyota and BMW, Erickson Oil, Pizza Hut, Sunset Strip Pawn Shop, US Bank, Get N Go #2, Taco John, MD Engraving, Robson Hardware, McDonald's, Ace Hardware, Jim & Ron's Service, Boyer Service, Starlight Estates, Sport Bowl, and Able Auto Glass.

Currently the chorus is scheduled to perform on August 14th at the legion for the state commander's homecoming. (Congratulations to Hoot Gibson from the chorus). We will be performing at St. Mark's Lutheran Church on August 15th during their 9:00am service. Then on August 22nd we have been invited to sing at Palisades Manor in Garretson at 2:00pm.



Post 15 Legion Riders lined up at the wall after the "Ride of Honor"

Veterans Job Fair to be held August 11, 2010

The South Dakota Department of Labor (DOL) will be holding a Veterans Job Fair in Sioux Falls on Wed., August 11 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the VFW post located at 3601 S Minnesota Ave. The event is co-hosted by the VFW, American Legion, Disabled American Veterans and Paralyzed Veterans of America.

Around 30 employers are expected to be in attendance to visit with job seekers about potential employment opportunities. Openings range from full time to part time in a variety of areas such as financial services, healthcare, manufacturing and government.

Veterans who are under-employed, unemployed or seeking new employment are encouraged to attend. Participants should dress professionally and come prepared with resumes and references.

DOL local office staff can provide assistance in filling out applications, writing cover letters and resumes, and practicing interview techniques. People interested in this help should contact their local office to visit with an employment representative and register to attend a Job Search Assistance Program (JSAP) to learn job search skills.

For a list of local offices and dates of scheduled JSAPs, visit www.sdjobs.org.



Storm brought the wall down at Salute to Troops. Volunteers helped put it back up.



Beverly Saunders, Post 15 Auxiliary member, Legion Rider member, and secretary for Legion Riders.

You can find us on the web at: www.siouxfallslegion.org

OFFICIAL MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF
SIOUX FALLS POST 15 AMERICAN LEGION

OFFICERS OF SIOUX FALLS POST 15

COMMANDER
David Saunders

1st VICE COMMANDER
Thane Johnson

2nd VICE COMMANDER
Dean Berdahl

ADJUTANT
Jim Stenseth

CHAPLAIN
Darwin Wahlert

FINANCE OFFICER
Troy Rames

ATHLETIC OFFICER
Ed Powers

SGT-AT-ARMS
Leonard Young

LOUNGE MANAGER
Jerry Lage

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

Chairmen: Curt Pansch
Butch Finton, Ed Hruska, Ed Powers,
Gene Tornow, Roger Klos, Gene Even

THANKS POST 15 VOLUNTEERS!
Funerals, Color Guard, VA Activities

Paul Anderson, Dean Berdahl, Ken Brown, Ron Earley, Gene Even, Butch Finton, Ken Foley, Hoot Gibson, Jim Hartsook, Edward Hruska, Bob Johnson, Thane Johnson, Roger Klos, Gil Koepsell, Durwood Lidke, Vince Maag, Don Norton, Ed Powers, Dave Saunders, Tom Sawyer, Don Skadsen, Joe Smook, Vernon Staebell, Jim Stenseth, Gene Tornow, Rick Towns, Terry Towns, Hanford Twaddle, Dave Twedell, Norm Varns, Darwin Wahlert, John Weber, Robert Williams, Bob Workman.

Please Let Us Know . . .

If you know of a Post 15 member who is ill, in the hospital or nursing home, please call the office at 336-3470 so their name can be added to our visitation list.

Your 2011 dues notice will be coming to your mailboxes soon.
If you pay before November 11th, 2010, you will receive a **FREE STAG TICKET**. Also in the mailing will be a free \$1000.00 Accidental Death Benefit form to fill out and send in. Coverage will be effective through August 31, 2016 as long as you pay your dues.
PFL members - you will receive your free stag ticket and Insurance Benefit forms in the mail.

NOTICE:

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

THE AMERICAN LEGION
SIOUX FALLS POST NO. 15
1701 West Legion Drive
Sioux Falls, SD 57104



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