



POST 15 NEWS



SIoux FALLS AMERICAN LEGION

Americanism • Boy's State • Jr. Legion Baseball • Child Welfare

FEBRUARY 2009

Commander's Corner Terry Towns



Wow, is it ever COLD. Today's high was -5 – remind me again why I live up here! Part of it has to do with each and every one of you. It's a wonderful position that I have as the commander – I get to work one-on-one with many veterans and do some good.

I have had 2 conversations in the last 2 weeks or so about a veteran that passed away and did not have their DD Form 214. This left the family in a bad situation. *Please* check to see if you have your original or a certified copy of your DD 214 (this is your discharge paper from the military). This is a very valuable document and should be filled with your other important documents. If you do not have this, please contact myself or our post service office, Pat Kroupa at 605 367-4201. We can help you get a copy.

As most of you have heard, our bar manager, Dennis Bierle passed away the 1st of January. We would like to take the opportunity to express our condolences to Dennis' family and friends. Dennis has done a lot for our Legion over the years and will be missed.

We have posted a job announcement for Club Manager with SD DOL or what I will always call Job Service. If you have any questions about applying for this position, please call Brad at Job Service @ 367-5300. A copy will also be included later in the newsletter. Please help us get the word to as many qualified applicants as possible.

I recently discussed with Gary Thimsen, our JAG office, a pheasant hunt held at Tom Walsh's Southfork ranch near Dallas, South Dakota. The hunt was held October 22-24, 2008. Co-sponsors along with Tom Walsh were TV golf announcer David Feherity and former Twins player and now television outdoorsman Kent Hrbek. Eighteen severely wounded Afghan and Iraqi veterans were in attendance, 10 from South Dakota and 8 from Walter Reed Army Hospital. U.S. Senator John Thune attended as well. He has some video of this event, made all the more impressive by the Singing Legionnaires (Norm Varns) loan of 200 American flags used to welcome these veterans. It was a wonderful event and wanted to say Thank You to Gary for his efforts.

I wanted to thank Brenda DeGraw for coming to our

last business meeting and sharing her information on the Help Hospitalized Veterans Craft Program. For veterans that need some craft work to help keep them busy and active this is a wonderful program. The program is free to all veterans registered through the VAMC and does include in and out patients. You can contact Brenda at 373-4143 if you have more questions.

The Honor Flight of South Dakota received a lot of media during January so in turn we received a lot of new applications for the program. We are currently over 350 applications. If you are a World War II Veteran and not yet submitted your application, please give me a call for help in getting this done or if you have any questions, please feel free to give me a call.

Our membership goal this year is 1737 and we are currently setting at 1550.

If you want to contact me on any items, my home phone is 371-9679, the American Legion office number is 336-3470, my email is tntowns@sio.midco.net, and the post home address 1701 Legion Drive, Sioux Falls, SD 57104. Please let me know what the American Legion can do for you.

Auxiliary Announcements Bev Sievert, President

Thank you to those ladies who braved the weather and met at the post home on January 12th to put together 300 pocket flags for the departing troops. It was a great time for fellowship.

February is Americanism Month. Jan Knutson will be contacting the local elementary schools to encourage the students to write a Patriotic Essay or Poem. What a great way to get students to do some research and learn about Americanism?

February is a busy month beginning with our meeting on the 10th. We will have a guest speaker, Brenda DeGraw from the VA Hospital, who will be speaking about the craft program for the Hospitalized Veterans.

The Midwinter Conference is the 13th through the 15th. The Auxiliary will be having a silent auction. If you would like to donate an item I would be more than happy to transport it to Midwinter. Bring it to the meeting or call me at 362-8606.

If you're not able to attend Midwinter maybe you would like to go to the VA Hospital on the 13th for the National

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Auxiliary, continued

Salute to Hospitalized Veterans. Be at the Hospital by 11:00 AM to help escort the patients to the auditorium and have lunch with them at noon.

The Auxiliary serves for Bingo at the VA Hospital on the 19th of February. If you would like to help, please contact either Diane Hudson at 338-2429 or myself at 362-8608. It is a very rewarding couple hours.

Don't forget the Legion Birthday Supper on March 15th 2009.

Be sure to send in your membership. As I mentioned before it is 5 cents a day to be a member of the largest ladies organization in the world. What better way is there to serve the Veterans and Children and Youth?

REMEMBER, ALL GAVE SOME BUT SOME GAVE ALL!



(back to front) Lila Day, Phyllis Breuer, Dianne Hudson, Jan Knutson, Darlene Fletcher, Bev Sievert and Harriet Kelley.



Local CAP members helping out at a recent event.

FEBRUARY 2009

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Legion Riders

We would like to thank the Carl Edman family for the donation to the Legion Riders. Carl will be missed by all veterans groups.

Roger Klos was contacted by Harlon Tiedeman regarding the Legion Riders being represented in the July 4th parade at Beresford. It is Beresford's 125th birthday.

We will be having another Taco Feed in Lennox on February 20th. The Lennox Legion had a sign made to advertise the taco feed. The sign is very nice and will sit in the middle of main street.

Ron Richards presented the Iron Butt Ride. Riders will ride a 1000 miles in 24 hours. Pledges from local businesses for each mile ridden will be donated to the Legacy Fund. A late June date is what he is looking at for ideal weather.

Please remember to bring proof of insurance, drivers licence, and registration to the next meeting. Also, membership dues are due in January. They remained \$15.00 for 2009.

Upcoming Events

Feb 11th ALR Meeting
Feb 20th Taco Feed at the Lennox Legion
March 11th ALR Meeting
March 28-29 Abate Swap Meet

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.

POST EVERLASTING



Alan Lidel, Lloyd Johnson, Richard Kiepke,
Dale Tuttle, Dwaine Lindner, Dennis Bierle,
Dexter Havens

Memorials

For Dennis Bierle from Jerry Lage- \$20.00
For Dwaine Lindner from Hoot Gibson- \$10.00
For Carl Edman from Marla Edman- \$250.00
For Richare Kiepke from Dean Mann - \$10.00;
Alan Frentz-\$15.00; Jill Morman- \$15.00;
Hoot Gibson - \$10.00

NOTICE

Need volunteers to help with Military Funerals -
Please contact Gene Tornow- 371-3713

Veterans Forum

Pat Kroupa, Post Service Officer

PENSION FOR VETERANS AND THEIR WIDOWS

If you are a veteran or widow of a veteran on limited income or with significant medical expenses, you could be eligible for a monthly pension from the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA).

In either case, the veteran must have served on active duty under other than dishonorable conditions. He/she must have served for at least 90 consecutive days and at least one of those days must have been during a period of war.

In the case of veterans pension, the veteran must be determined by the DVA to be permanently and totally disabled. This is determined by the veteran's degree of disability and employability or the veteran must simply be 65 years of age or older. There are no age or disability requirements, however, when the surviving spouse is the applicant.

Once the above criteria are met; income, assets and unreimbursed medical expenses are considered in determining your adjusted income. Pension is based on adjusted income and not gross income. You should also understand that the paid funeral bill is considered a countable expense in determining adjusted income.

In most cases it takes just a few moments to determine a veteran's or spouse's eligibility for pension. Don't rule yourself out. Visit your county Veterans Service Office to see if you qualify.

If you have further questions about other veteran's benefits please feel free to contact me. My office is at 521 N. Main Avenue, Suite 201, my phone number is 367-4201 and my E-mail address is pkroupa@minnehahacounty.org.

Patricia Kroupa, Post Service Officer
(605) 367-4201 pkroupa@minnehahacounty.org.

VA Hospital Notes

Darwin Wahlert, VA Hospital Representative

January will be just about over when you get this newsletter and the year is flying by already. On Jan. 7th and 14th we had a soup and sandwich lunch and on the 21st and 28th we had a movie outing. Things will start to pick up as the weather gets warmer. In February we will have the National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans program on the 13th at 11:00 am in the auditorium. Also on the 13th we will be holding the VAVS Quarterly Meeting in the auditorium at 1:30 pm. The 16th of February is President's Day and the offices will be closed. **Items currently not needed at the VA are lap robes, bed quilts, hard cover books, National Geographic's, Readers Digests, magazines older than 3 months, clothing of any kind, baked goods and used greeting cards.** Volunteers are always needed in all areas of the VA and the work is very rewarding to both the volunteer and the Veteran. Remember to visit or call a shut-in **Veteran.**

Chorus

Notes

Mike Binger, President



On behalf of the chorus, I wish you a Happy New Year for 2009 and hope that your holiday season was a prosperous time well spent with your loved ones. Along with music, everyone in the chorus was blessed with good tidings during the season. We again saw an appreciative crowd at the Washington Pavilion for the Male Choral Festival on November 30th, and followed up with appearances at Sunnycrest Retirement Village on December 8th and the Veterans Hospital on December 18th. At the end of this year we will perform for the 60th consecutive year at the VA. We have access to CDs featuring us and five other groups from the Pavilion performance, so just let one of us know if you're interested.

By the time of the next Legion Newsletter, our annual election will take place and I will be retained as our President along with Bruce Naasz as Vice President, Todd Schmidt as Chairman of the Board, Bob Binger (my father) as Secretary and Dick Kallemeyn as Treasurer. The first three will remain in their positions because of the 2008 development in which Arnie Zueger had to retire due to health reasons. In the case of Dick and my dad, however, they are long-standing veterans in their functions. Dick has continuously served as Treasurer from 1998 to the present, and Dad began as Secretary all the way back in 1986. Both are men well trusted by our group and they have proven again and again their value many times over. With leaders like all these as well as Al Stanga, our director who is entering his eighth year, we are truly in good hands.

Our first singing appearance of the year will come in March at Post 15 for the Legion birthday party. It will be the 90th birthday and we are now engaged in diligent rehearsals and preparations for the grand occasion. We are learning new music and will include some of it in future appearances as well as on our upcoming CD. Rehearsals are every Monday night, 7:30 P.M. at Post 15. Any male vocalist may call me at 929-4867, or contact any of our members to join our ranks.

HOURS OF OPERATION

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

FEBRUARY 2009

PHONES

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Pancake Breakfast 9 am - 1 pm	2 Singing Legionnaire's Chorus Rehearsal 7:30 pm	3 Exec. Bd. Mtg 5:45 pm Go Getter Mtg 6:30 pm Regular Business Mtg 7:30 pm	4	5	6 Dakota Daze 9:00 pm - 1:00 am	7
8	9 Singing Legionnaire's Chorus Rehearsal 7:30 pm	10 Senior Pool Tourn. 12:00 Noon Aux. Mtg 7:00 pm SAL 7:00 pm	11 Legion Riders Mtg 7:00 pm	12	13 14 MIDWINTER CONFERENCE - OACOMA Dakota Daze 9:00 pm - 1:00 am	
15 MIDWINTER CONF.	16 Singing Legionnaire's Chorus Rehearsal 7:30 pm	17 Legionnaires Stag 6:30 pm RSVP: 336-0155	18	19 Vet's Council Mtg. VFW 7:30pm	20 TGIF DINNER 6-8 pm	21 Troublemakers 9:00 pm - 1:00 am
22	23 Singing Legionnaire's Chorus Rehearsal 7:30 pm	24 Ladies Stag 6:30 pm RSVP: 336-0155 County Meeting Dell Rapids 8:00 pm	25	26	27 Road Trip Band 9:00 pm - 1:00 am	28

FEBRUARY 17, 2009 • 6:30 pm • RAFFLE: \$550.00
 COST: \$6.00 or Free Stag Ticket
 MENU: Chicken
 Beer Special: Miller \$1.00 Taps
 Liquor Special: Black Velvet - \$1.50
 CALL 336-0155 FOR RESERVATIONS!!!

Legionnaire's
Stag

LEGION
 MEMBERSHIP
 CARDS WILL
 BE CHECKED
 AT THIS STAG



Ladies'
 Stag

FEBRUARY 24, 2009 • 6:30 pm • COST: \$6.00
 MENU: Chicken
 Beer Special: \$1.00 Taps
 Liquor Special: All Schnapps - \$1.50
 * BINGO * RAFFLE *
 CALL 336-0155 FOR RESERVATIONS!!!

Announcement

For you all that has not heard, we have opened the CLUB MANAGER position at the American Legion. Right now we are advertizing it with <http://dol.sd.gov/> but, here is the announcement. If you have any questions, you can call Brad at Job Service (367-5300), or email me. To apply submit your resume / references to me also.

Please help also to spread the word.

Thanks,
Terry Towns

Club Manager -

Job Service Order ID 1444426

Full Time

Heavy to 100 Pounds

Veterans strongly encouraged to apply. Must be bondable. The Club Manager will have the authority to hire, terminate, schedule, discipline, train, and set wages for all full-time and part-time employees. Will be responsible for all club entertainment other than Post 15 and American Legion activities. Shall maintain personnel files and do yearly evaluations. Will supervise and be responsible for counting and maintaining reports of all monies for the club including video lottery receipts. Will order all liquor, food, and supplies necessary for the operation of the club and furnish food for all Legion sponsored events at the Post or other designated location. Responsible for the care and upkeep of the facility, equipment, and grounds. Shall be able to file all forms (tax, insurance, etc.) as needed for the operation of the club. Will provide a monthly oral report to the executive board and when warranted a written report. Shall coordinate with the Post Commander and executive board on all equipment purchases. Will have knowledge and understanding of chemicals used in cleaning and lawn care (proper use and personal protective equipment). Will always promote the good will of the Legion and Post # 15 above all else. Wages at least \$ 30,000 per year - could be higher if willing to cook as well. Will work 40 + hours per week including every weekend.

Dental Insurance, Health Insurance, Life Insurance, Vacation, Vision



State Commander Jim Huls & State Auxiliary President Sherry Woltjer




Dick Sievert(L) and Rick Towns(R) hanging a plaque for the sword Leonard Martinek won in a membership drawing.

Sunday, February 1, 2009

***American Legion Post 15
Pancake Breakfast!***

POST HOME  1701 W. LEGION DRIVE

Feb. 1 ★ 9:00 a.m. til 1:00 p.m.
ADULTS 4.00 CHILDREN UNDER TWELVE FREE
PANCAKES * SAUSAGE * EGGS 

Proceeds Support The American Legion

Post 15

Senior's Pool Tournament

Tues., February 10, 2009 • 12:00 Noon

Sign up on the Bulletin Board

MUST BE SIGNED UP BY FEB. 9, 2009

Door always open

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



Non-Profit Org.
US Postage PAID
Permit # 74
Sioux Falls, SD

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

TGIF DINNER

AMERICAN LEGION
POST HOME

February 20, 2009

6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

PRIME RIB DINNER

\$12.00

*MUST CALL
FOR RESERVATIONS*

336-0155

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

Terry Towns

1st VICE COMMANDER

Bernie Verburg

2nd VICE COMMANDER

Curtis Pansch

ADJUTANT

Jim Stenseth

CHAPLAIN

Ken Brown

VA ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN

John Weber

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

Chairmen: Rick Towns

Dean Berdahl, Bob Brekke, Bob Eggers,
Gene Even, Butch Finton, Gary Henle, Ed Powers

FINANCE OFFICER

Leonard Martinek

ATHLETIC OFFICER

Ed Powers

HISTORIAN

Terry Towns

SGT-AT-ARMS

Keith Bierle

LOUNGE MANAGER

THANKS POST 15 VOLUNTEERS!

*Funerals, Color Guard, VA Activities
Pancake Breakfast*

Paul Anderson, Dean Berdahl, Harold Bosler,
Ken Brown, Paul Brude, Alvin Cink, Richard
Cobb, Howard Daggitt, Stan Dahl, Earl Dains,
Bob Eggers, Don Earley, Ron Earley, Gene
Even, Butch Finton, Ken Foley, Hoot Gibson,
Gene Grocott, Harold Hanson, Jim Hartsook,
Dale Haas, Gary Henle, Roland Jensen,
Thane Johnson, Glen Kelley, Roger Klos,
Lloyd Kock, Bruce Kuemper, Dick Lahn,
Durwood Lidke, Donald Lounsbery, Vince
Maag, Dean Mann, Gordon Nelson, Bill
Niemann, Dale Norstrom, Don Norton, Ed
Powers, Dick Sievert, Don Skadsen, Joe
Smook, Jim Stenseth, Dale Stoll, Gene
Tornow, Rick Towns, Terry Towns, Hanford
Twaddle, Darwin Wahlert, John Weber,
Robert Williams, Bob Workman.