



POST 15 NEWS



SIoux FALLS AMERICAN LEGION

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

JANUARY 2009

Commander's Corner Terry Towns



This month has sure gone fast what with all the Christmas Parties going on. Thanks for all the invites, but sorry I was not able to make them all. During the month we also attended the Wreathes Across America program, attended a couple of events for hospitalized veterans at the VAMC, and supported the Army Reserve Family Activity program. This program gave parents an opportunity to enjoy as afternoon together while their children enjoyed a high-energy activity – Gymnastics.

We will be hearing more about the Help Hospitalized Veterans Craft Program at our January Regular Business meeting thanks to Brenda DeGraw from the VAMC. 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.

On January 7, 2009, the Veterans Forum for this area will be held at the American Legion Post #307 in Renner, SD. It starts at 7:00 p.m. and I'm sure there will be a lot of veterans' information that will be passed on. Please plan to attend if you have any questions on your veteran benefits. For more information, call Dick Sievert at 362-8606.

And speaking of Dick Sievert, one of our own post members, has announced that he will be running for SD Department Commander this year (2009-2010). The post has agreed to support Dick in his endeavors for this election and we wish him the best and look forward to what he has to offer the American Legion Family. Congratulations and Good Luck Dick! And I'm sure our own "Hoot" Gibson will be running for the Department "Master-of-Arms" again this year & we wish him good luck.

The Honor Flight of South Dakota received a lot of media during December so in turn we received a lot of new applications for the program. We are currently at 178 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.

Did you know? 1 January 1735 Paul Revere, US Patriot was born and on 1 January 1752 Betsy Ross, Flag Maker was born. I'm also considering including a "recipe" in the newsletter, let me know what you think!

During the Pancake Feed in December, the guys taking the money was told that a local Sioux Falls Marine was chosen to be one of four to be part of the inauguration in January – Congratulations Cody Trapp.

Our membership goal this year is 1737 and we are currently setting at 1501.

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 towns@tio.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.

Legion membership cards will be checked at the January 20 Stag.

Auxiliary Announcements

Bev Sievert, President

December started out very busy. THE VA Christmas Gift Shop was held on December 1, 2, 3. It was very successful and I want to thank all who helped especially the two ladies who stopped to help wrap gifts who as of yet are not members of The Auxiliary.

On December 6th a Mobilization Ceremony was held for the 114th Fighter Civil Engineer Squadron. They will be deployed very shortly after Christmas. Dianne, Darlene, Jan and I helped hand out 52 pocket flags to the Airmen and small flags to the children.

Sherry Woltjer, the South Dakota Auxiliary President was a guest at our December meeting. Thanks for stopping by and helping us eat some of the goodies that everyone brought to share. We had a gift exchange and then we addressed Christmas Cards for the Veterans in the nursing homes. The Unit voted to send telephone gift cards to Jan Knutson's grandson, Dianne Hudson's son and Kay Scharf's nephew for Christmas.

The VA Auxiliary Christmas Party was held on December 11th and Jan and I helped with the food distribution and decorations. Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus showed up to visit the veterans. Thank you to Lila Speckels and Theresa Huntimer for playing the parts to well.

Don't forget that there will be no regular meeting in January. We will however meet at the Post Home on January 12 at 1:00 PM to cut out and fold pocket flags. There will probably be some cookies served for the workers.

Continues on p. 2

Auxiliary, continued

The Mid Winter Conference will be held at Cedar Shores at Oacoma SD on February 13th through the 15th. You need to get your reservations for the luncheons in prior to the conference. If you have any questions please call me at 362-8606.

The National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans will be held on February 13th in the VA Auditorium. Take time to go visit a Veteran.

Make sure you remember to attend the Legion Birthday Party on March 15, 2009.

Call the Legion Office and make your reservations ahead of time so the Cooks have a little time to plan the meals.

Remember "We live in the land of the free because of the Brave."



Auxiliary Department President Sherry Woltjer, Darlene Zweep and Bev at the VA Veteran's Shopping Store.



Commander Terry Towns and State VFW Commander Dick Pickering at the Wreaths Across America Program – 13 Dec 08.

JANUARY 2009

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1701 West Legion Drive, Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57104
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Legion Riders

I would like to welcome our newest members Gerald Rose, and Susan Cleft. This brings our membership up 29 now. We elected our new officers Alvin Lee is still our president, Roger Klos is the Vice President, Gary Henle is the Historian, Ron Richards is the Public Relations, Craig Gronewold is Treasurer, Bob Dysart is Sgt @ Arms/Road Captain, and Carla Feltman is Secretary. These members will be taking over at our meeting in January.

Before we get into the next riding season we will need for everyone to bring their driver's license, proof of insurance, and registration. This is something we do every year and before we can ride we need to verify that everyone is within the law. On Dec 6, Governor Rounds gave thanks to us as well as the Patriot Guards, and the other motorcycle veteran groups.

Jan 25, 2009 at 12:30 we will be hosting a Chili Cook off with Bean Bag tournament. 100% of entry fees will go back to the winners.

List of Events

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| Jan 14 1900 | ALR Meeting (w/ installation of officers) |
| Jan 25 2009 (1230) | Bean Bag Tournament and Chili Cook Off |
| Feb 12 1900 | ALR Meeting |
| Feb 21 | Those Guys Bowling Party. |
| Mar 12 1900 | ALR Meeting |
| Mar 28- 29 | Abate Swap Meet |

If you have any questions or Concerns please feel free to email me at richardcobb@sio.midco.net or call me at 310-1952

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



Milo Stokke, Ken McFarland,
Carl Edman, Dean Chambers, Ray Demarest,
Harold Guthrie, Donald Davis, Frank Farkas,
Jim Lynch

Memorials

For Richard Gaffin from Gary Lane - \$50.00
For Richard Gaffin from Clarine Gaffin - \$50.00
For Harold Guthrie from Guthrie Family - \$50.00

NOTICE

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

Veterans Forum

Pat Kroupa, Post Service Officer

TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT INCREASE

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs announced in November that eligible veterans will see an increase in the mileage reimbursement they receive for travel to VA facilities for medical care.

Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Dr. James Peake, announced that the mileage reimbursement will go from 28.5 cents per mile to 41.5 cents per mile for all eligible veterans. Service connected veterans, veterans receiving VA pension and veterans with low incomes are eligible for the reimbursement.

While increasing the payment, the current deductible amounts applied to certain mileage reimbursements will remain frozen at \$7.77 for a one way trip, \$15.54 for a round trip and capped at a maximum of \$46.62 per calendar month. On January 9, 2009 these deductibles will decrease to \$3.00 for a one way trip, \$6.00 for a round trip and a maximum of \$16.00 per calendar month. Deductibles can be waived if they cause a financial hardship to the veteran.

To apply for your mileage reimbursements see the travel office at the VA Medical Center.

If you have further questions about your eligibility for burial benefits or 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

By the time you get this newsletter Christmas will have been and I hope everyone had a safe and joyous Christmas. December was a busy month as we had a holiday lunch on the 10th and American Legion Auxiliary of SD Holiday Party was on the 11th. The Auxiliary put on a great party for the Veterans and Santa showed to visit with the Veterans and the entertainment was excellent. The State American Legion Commander Jim Huls as well as other State Officers were in attendance. I must say big thank you to all who helped. We also had a holiday light bus ride and supper on the 15th. The annual Volunteer Holiday Party was held on the 18th and a New Year's Eve party was on the 31st. **Items currently not needed at the VA are lap robes, bed quilts, hard cover books, National Geographic, readers Digest, magazines older than 3 months, clothing of any kind, baked goods and used greeting cards.** Volunteers are needed in all areas of the VA and the work is very rewarding for both the Veteran and the volunteer. I wish everyone has a safe and Happy New Year. Remember to call or visit a sick or shut-in Veteran.

OPERATION COMFORT WARRIORS — WE NEED YOUR HELP

By American Legion National Commander David K. Rehbein, American Legion Auxiliary National President Desiree A. Stoy, and Sons of the American Legion National Commander Tommie Cisna

We need your help. Most importantly they need you. They are our warriors, our guardians, our protectors. They are liberators, peacekeepers and nation-builders. They are our neighbors, friends and family members. They are the men and women of the United States Armed Forces. And now they are hurting.

The U.S. government does a good job providing for the essential needs of the men and women recovering from war injuries in hospitals like Walter Reed, Brooke Army Medical Center and Bethesda Naval Medical Center, just to name a few. But what about the so-called nonessentials, the items that don't show up as a budget-line on a government spreadsheet? Nonessential comfort items such as loose-fitting sweat suits that can cover a soldier's healing body without adding pressure to the burns he suffered during an RPG attack in Ramadi? Or an I-Pod to help drown out the tinnitus that has plagued the medic ever since she drove too close to a roadside bomb in Afghanistan? Or a gripping novel that provides a welcome distraction from PTSD?

In 2007, Past National Commander Paul Morin, Auxiliary National President JoAnn Cronin and SAL Commander Earl Ruttkofsky challenged The American Legion family to raise \$50,000 to purchase comfort items for our wounded warriors at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany. Legion family members and other caring Americans responded in a big way. Thanks to their generosity, nearly \$350,000 was raised and spent directly on the troops.

In fact, Operation Landstuhl was so successful that we want to accomplish a similar endeavor at other military and VA medical centers. We are calling on you to once again help us meet our goal of raising \$50,000 by the holidays.

When the Red Cross notified The American Legion that zip-up sweatsuits were in short supply at Walter Reed, the Legion immediately ordered 100 sets. But it's just a drop in the bucket. We have been told there is an even greater need for items at Fort Hood and Fort Bragg. Consider that there are 67 other U.S. military inpatient facilities and 1,369 VA inpatient and outpatient centers, and you can grasp the enormous need. Their size and needs, however, are dwarfed by the obligation that America has to these heroes.

The American Legion family is calling this effort Operation Comfort Warriors. Contributing is effortless. No trips to the post office or packaging of comfort items are needed. We will handle all of that. You can use your credit card to make an online donation at www.legion.org and click on Operation Comfort "Warriors".

You can also mail a check to: **Operation Comfort Warriors, PO Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206.** Give what you can whether it only \$5. All donations will help!

HOURS OF OPERATION

Mon. – Saturday: 10:00 am to Close

Sunday: 11:00 am to Close

JANUARY 2009

PHONES

Office: 336-3470 (room reservations)

Lounge: 336-0155 (stag reservations)

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
	Singing Legionnaire's Chorus Rehearsal 7:30 pm			NEW YEAR'S DAY CLOSED	Dakota Daze 9:00 pm - 1:00 am	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Pancake Breakfast 9 am - 1 pm	Singing Legionnaire's Chorus Rehearsal 7:30 pm	Exec. Bd. Mtg 5:45 pm Go Getters 6:30 pm Regular Business Mtg 7:30 pm	District 1 Veterans Forum Renner Legion 7:00 pm		Band to be announced 9:00 pm - 1:00 am	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	Singing Legionnaire's Chorus Rehearsal 7:30 pm	Senior Pool Tourn. 12:00 Noon SAL 7:00 pm	Legion Riders Mtg 7:00 pm	Vet's Council Mtg. VFW 7:30pm	TGIF DINNER 6-8 pm Band to be announced 9:00 pm - 1:00 am	SAL Pool Tournament 12:30 pm
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Riders Chili Cookoff & Bean Bag Tournament 12:30 pm	Singing Legionnaire's Chorus Rehearsal 7:30 pm	Legionnaires Stag 6:30 pm RSVP: 336-0155			Troublemakers 9:00 pm - 1:00 am	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
	Singing Legionnaire's Chorus Rehearsal 7:30 pm	Ladies Stag 6:30 pm RSVP: 336-0155 County Meeting Colton 8:00 pm			Road Trip Band 9:00 pm - 1:00 am	

JANUARY 20, 2008 • 6:30 pm • RAFFLE: \$525.00
COST: \$6.00 or Free Stag Ticket
MENU: Swiss Steak
Beer Special: Bud \$1.00 Taps
Liquor Special: Windsor/Lord - \$1.50
CALL 336-0155 FOR RESERVATIONS!!!

Legionnaire's
Stag

LEGION
MEMBERSHIP
CARDS WILL
BE CHECKED
AT THIS STAG



Ladies'
Stag

JANUARY 27, 2008 • 6:30 pm • COST: \$6.00
MENU: Swiss Steak
Beer Special: \$1.00 Taps
Liquor Special: All Schnapps - \$1.50
*** BINGO * RAFFLE ***
CALL 336-0155 FOR RESERVATIONS!!!

TGIF DINNER

AMERICAN LEGION POST HOME

January 16, 2009 • 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

STEAK OR SHRIMP DINNER

\$10.00

MUST CALL FOR RESERVATIONS

336-0155



Sandy Frentz and Bev Sievert from the Auxiliary and District Commmander Dick Sievert with a Veteran during the shopping store at the VA.

LEGION RIDERS BEAN BAG TOURNAMENT and CHILI COOKOFF

JANUARY 25 • 12:30 p.m.

ANYONE WISHING TO PARTICIPATE
EITHER OR BOTH -

THERE WILL BE A \$5.00 ENTRY FEE
FOR EACH EVENT.

TO EAT THE CHILI WILL COST \$3.00

PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED


THE PEOPLE EATING THE CHILI
WILL BE THE JUDGES.

COME OUT AND SUPPORT US!!!!

Sunday, January 4, 2009

*American Legion Post 15
Pancake Breakfast!*

POST HOME  1701 W. LEGION DRIVE

Jan. 4 ★ 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., January 13, 2009 • 12:00 Noon

Sign up at Bar or on the Bulletin Board

MUST BE SIGNED UP BY 11:30 a.m.

— space is limited —

SENIOR POOL TOURNAMENT NEWS

Winners in December

1st- LeRoy Christianson and Don Johnson

2nd- Larry L. and Jim Cummings

3rd -Jim Assid and Bob Kogel



Diane, Darlene and Bev at the 114th Fighter Civil Engineer Deployment Ceremony

SAL - Todd Kuck, Commander

January 17th the Sons are sponsoring a fund raiser Pool Tournament for Operation Helping Hand. Sign up is 12:30 pm with a \$5.00 entry fee. Sign up sheets will also be on the bulletin boards.

On December 15th the SAL started selling raffle tickets dfor Lend a Hand that will be going to the Back Pack Program. Grand prize will be a \$200 gift certificate to Walmart.

Welcome new members: Chad Patch, Greg Hodkinson and Michael Stoner.

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



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Commander Terry with Mr. & Mrs. Claus

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

**OFFICIAL MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF
SIOUX FALLS POST 15 AMERICAN LEGION**

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COMMANDER Terry Towns ***	FINANCE OFFICER Leonard Martinek ***
1st VICE COMMANDER Bernie Verburg ***	ATHLETIC OFFICER Ed Powers ***
2nd VICE COMMANDER Curtis Pansch ***	HISTORIAN Terry Towns ***
ADJUTANT Jim Stenseth ***	SGT-AT-ARMS Keith Bierle ***
CHAPLAIN Ken Brown ***	LOUNGE MANAGER Dennis Bierle ***

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

THANKS POST 15 VOLUNTEERS!
*Funerals, Color Guard, VA Activities
Pancake Breakfast*

Paul Anderson, LeRoy Arneson, Dean Berdahl,
Harold Bosler, Ken Brown Paul Brude, Alvin Cink,
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, Glen Kelley, Roger
Klos, Loyd Kock, Gil Koepsell, Norb Kramer,
Bruce Kuemper, Dick Lahn, Durwood Lidke,
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Dale Norstrom, Don Norton, Ed Pfilipsen,
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