



POST 15 NEWS



ST. LOUIS AMERICAN LEGION

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

JANUARY 2010



Commander's Corner Curt Pansch

I hope you all enjoyed the blessings and peace of Christmas. Pray for our military members who are deployed away from their families.

Our big news is Post 15 has a new Lounge Manager on board. Jerry

Lage comes to us with a variety of experience that will suit our membership well. Introduce yourself to Jerry. He is an Air Force veteran and American Legion member. I look forward to working with Jerry.

Most of us have been truly blessed. Many folks in our community need help, especially during the winter. Consider bringing nonperishable food items to the January Stag. All donations will go to the Food Pantry. Donation is not required but please consider helping out local folks, including many veterans.

Hoot and I handed out refreshments and coffee to the Air Guard members leaving for Iraq and family members. Both of us worked for the ANG many years so it is always great to spend time there.

Your Legion Chorus had their Christmas Party complete with a good meal and great entertainment. Todd Schmidt was given their Singing Legionnaire of the Year Award. A very class act was inviting widows of past members. Bruce Naasz was a great host.

On December 10, I was honored to attend the Christmas party at the VA hosted by your Auxiliary. The veterans, staff, Auxiliary and Post 15 members all enjoyed the party. It had special meaning for me as I met a retired ROTC instructor from SDSU, Colonel Scott. He helped get me started on an Air Force/Air Guard career. Special guests to the VA and Post 15 were State Commander Rod Martens, Dept. Adjutant Denny Brenden, Service Officer Warren Aas joined us for this celebration.

Anyone with the desire to quit tobacco use can call the South Dakota QuitLine for help:

1-866-SD QUIT (1-866-737-8487).

Military records can now be ordered on-line, including DD Form 214, discharge form. I tried this site and all the paperwork can be filled in, however you still must print out, sign and mail or fax an authorization form. www.vetrecs.archives.gov Someone asked me how to find a family members military decorations. This site

does it. It is for the vet or next of kin's use.

Our Boy Scout Troop 15 is in need of more members. If you know of anyone who is interested, contact me and I will put you in touch with the scoutmaster.

South Dakota is #1 nationally in membership but by a fraction of a percent. Renew now and sign up a veteran.

I wish you all a Happy and Blessed New Year. Pray for the troops.

Contact me with concerns or suggestions: home 582-2554, email cjpansch@alliancecom.net

NOTICE If you paid your dues after December 9th you might receive a dues notice from National — JUST DISREGARD IF YOU HAVE PAID!!!

Auxiliary Announcements

Dianne Hudson, President

December turned out to be a busy month, many of the ladies were busy with the gift shop at the VA, helping the Veterans pick out gifts for their family as well as wrapping the gifts they chose.

Darlene, Jan, Bev and myself braved the cold temperatures to hand out pocket flags to the recently deployed units from the Air National Guard and also small flags to their children. Even their deployment was delayed due to the weather.

Thank you to all the ladies who have addressed Christmas cards and delivered them to the nursing homes. They truly appreciate the cards we give.

The Mid Winter Conference will be held February 12, 13, and 14th at the CedarShore Resort in Chamberlain, SD. If you are planning on going you will need to get your reservation in quickly. The hotels are filling up fast. I also have the order forms to the Joint Banquet and the Auxiliary noon luncheon. If you are going and needing the ticket forms please call me at I will mail it to you ASAP!

Also, if you have not paid your dues yet, please get them to Darlene. Every member counts!

Because our meeting was canceled in December we will be having our Christmas party with all the goodies, and our Holiday food drive in January instead. Remember to keep cutting coupons. I hope all of you had a Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year. We will see you on January 12th, at 7 pm.

Legion Riders

We had 19 members present for the meeting. We had three quests present.

We have two members, Bob Tupper and Gary Saxhaug, who are ill. Our thoughts and prayers are with them and we wish them a speedy recovery.

The ALR float in the Parade of Lights won the Spirit of Sioux Falls award. When the award was presented the comment was made that the Legion and Legion Riders were always there to help.

Thanks to everyone who worked so hard on the float.

Election of Officers was held. Al Lee is president, Roger Klos is Vice President, Craig Gronewald is Treasurer, Karla Feltman is Secretary, and Bob Dysart is Sergeant at Arms.

The ALR have been asked to donate a flag to the VA Hospital. It will be displayed with the other flags. Richard Cobb will present the VA with a flag.

Dues need to be paid next month. Driver licenses and proof of insurance must be shown to the secretary next month.

Upcoming events:

- January 13** ALR meeting at 7:00 at the Post
- Feb. 12, 13 & 14** State convention at Cedar Shore in Chamberlain. ALR will have election of state officers.
- February 29** Abate Bowling Tournament at the Sport Bowl

Memorials

In Memory of Arlen Johnson for Honor Flight
From: Darlene Fletcher-\$10.00
Lila Day - \$10.00

Audrey and Louis Knutson- \$10.00
Hoot Gibson- \$10.00
Lowell Bye-\$25.00
Janice Knutson-\$10.00

In Memory of Arlen Johnson
From Gil Koepsell- \$10.00
In Memory of Dennis Bierle, 32" TV from Di, Keith and Nancy Bierle

POST EVERLASTING

Gerherd Wohler, Loren Cherrington,
Donald Kelley, Robert Stevens,
Chris Graham



Sioux Falls Post 15 Riders Club

January Legislative Chair Notes...

— *Dean DeLashmutt*

Looks like the City of Sioux Falls is proceeding with the new arena plans-if the State will allow the city to impose a new tax, (I believe it was a one cent tax), they will begin the project. (One TV station had a poll on this, yes to agree, no to not agree with the new stadium. When I viewed it, the percent against was 98%! Better be sure the Council is really in touch with the populace. Call them with your input.)

Plan on the Legion's Legislative Reception in Pierre, February 2, at the American Legion Post. It starts at 5:30 PM. I know it will be tough to fit in and get back. However, I am planning on it. The more Legionaires the better and it is open to everybody in South Dakota. Let's make a show this year to show our appreciation and to let them be aware of our impact.

These notes are being put together at the end of November, the beginning of December. So, this is not timely information. However, the big bill, among several others, S 1963 passed on November 19. This is a bill providing assistance to caregivers of veterans, expands health care services for women veterans, improves mental health care, expands the VA's telemedicine program and its ability to collaborate with the Indian health services, enhances VA medical services; and improves VA department personnel.

Please call Honorable Stephanie Herseth Sandlin' office, (Sioux Falls office 367-8371), and ask to pass HR 2254. This is the House bill on expanding Agent Orange benefits. In the recent past, the VA opened a very narrow timeframe for Agent Orange sufferers. That window has passed and this bill opens it back up to include sailors that were exposed aboard ships, but not serving in country. I believe it has a couple of other Veteran "targets" for benefits as well but can't recall all that are included.

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JANUARY 2010

Post 15 News is published monthly by American Legion Post 15
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The House has a ton of bills passed for the veterans, (<http://veterans.house.gov/legislation/111legislation.shtml>). In that link, you will find a lot that affect the Veterans. Notably, a few expand benefits for women Veterans. Another directs the Secretary of Veteran Affairs to list on the Website for Veteran Affairs organizations offering scholarships to veterans and their survivors. Even housing assistance has been enhanced.

As I said before, wow, this is daunting and intimidating. Thousands of bills to track....And trying to track legitimate information.

Check the Legion bulletin Board for the following info:

Health overhaul poses no threat to Veterans

Pierre conference to explore mental health assistance

Attempting to erase mental illness stigma

Risk factors make veterans vulnerable

Policy change urged on letters to families

Study to Focus on Female Veterans

As unemployment ranks swell, veterans fare worse



Getting ready for Honor Flight



Nov. 13-14 Honor Flight with Senator Dole and two of our guys.

Sunday, Jan. 3, 2010
American Legion Post 15
Pancake Breakfast!
POST HOME  1701 W. LEGION DRIVE
Jan. 3 ★ 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
ADULTS 4.00 CHILDREN UNDER TWELVE FREE
PANCAKES * SAUSAGE * EGGS 
Proceeds Support Various Legion Activities

Jan. 22, 2010 • 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
AMERICAN LEGION POST HOME
SPAGHETTI FEED
SPONSORED BY THE YOUNG MARINES
\$4.00
MUST CALL FOR RESERVATIONS 336-0155

Thank you

In regard to the Honor Flight to D.C. We wish to express our gratitude and thank you to the American Legion and VFW, Larry Rohrer and his crew. To the nurses and all guardians, to all organizations and individuals who contributed to make this trip possible.

Ray Reber and Vern Kock

Post 15 Senior's Pool Tournament

Tuesday, January 12, 2010

12:00 Noon

Light Lunch

Sign up on the Bulletin Board

HOURS OF OPERATION

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

JANUARY 2010

PHONES

Office: 336-3470

Lounge: 336-0155 (room reservations)

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 NEW YEAR'S DAY CLOSED	2 Troublemakers 9:00 pm - 1:00 am
3 Pancake Breakfast 9:00 am - 1:00 pm	4 Singing Legionnaires Chorus Rehearsal 7:30 pm	5 Executive Board Mtg 5:30 pm Go Getters 6:30 pm Regular Business Mtg 7:30 pm	6	7	8 Road Trip Band 9:00 pm - 1:00 am	9
10	11 Singing Legionnaires Chorus Rehearsal 7:30 pm	12 Senior Pool Tourn. 12:00 Noon Aux. Mtg 7:00 pm SAL 7:00 pm	13 Legion Riders Mtg 7:00 pm	14	15 Dakota Daze 9:00 pm - 1:00 am	16
17	18 Singing Legionnaire's Chorus Rehearsal 7:30 pm Past Commanders Mtg 6:00 pm	19 Legionnaires Stag 6:30 pm	20	21 Vet's Council Mtg. VFW 7:00 pm	22 Troublemakers 9:00 pm - 1:00 am	23
24	25 Singing Legionnaires Chorus Rehearsal 7:30 pm	26 Ladies Stag 6:30 pm County Meeting Valley Springs 8:00 pm	27	28	29 Vermillion Ampd 9:00 pm - 1:00 am	30
31						

JANUARY 19, 2010 • 6:30 pm • RAFFLE: \$300.00

COST: \$6.00 or Free Stag Ticket

MENU: Roast Pork & Dressing

Beer Special: Budweiser Taps \$1.00

Liquor Special: Windsor/Lord - \$1.50

NO LONGER NEED TO CALL FOR RESERVATIONS

JANUARY 26, 2010 • 6:30 pm • COST: \$6.00

MENU: Roast Pork & Dressing

Beer Special: \$1.00 Taps

Liquor Special: Almaden Wine - \$1.50

* BINGO * RAFFLE *

NO LONGER NEED TO CALL FOR RESERVATIONS



Ladies' Stag

Legionnaire's Stag

Veterans Forum

Pat Kroupa, Post Service Officer

PRESIDENTIAL MEMORIAL CERTIFICATES

In March of 1962 President John F. Kennedy initiated the idea of a Presidential Memorial Certificate to honor the memory of deceased, honorably discharged veterans. The certificate expresses the nations grateful recognition of the veterans service and bears the veterans name, the signature of the president and the presidential seal in gold.

For the veterans family to receive a Presidential Memorial Certificate, the veteran must have had an honorable or general discharge or have died while on active duty. The certificate may be issued to the next of kin or a friend or an authorized service organization representative on behalf of the family or friend. There is no limit to the number of certificates that may be issued for a veteran. Be sure to state the number of certificates requested.

The request for a Presidential Memorial Certificate can be submitted on VA form 21-4138 or in a personal letter. The request should list the applicants name, address, phone number and relationship to the veteran. A copy of the veterans death certificate and a copy of their discharge should accompany the request.

The request should be submitted to: Presidential Memorial Certificates (41A1C)

Department of Veterans Affairs
5109 Russell Road
Quantico, VA 22134-3903
Fax# (202) 565-8054

For assistance with this or any other veterans benefit please contact me at 367-4201 or pkroupa@minnehahacounty.org.

VA Hospital Notes

Darwin Wahlert, VA Hospital Representative

Welcome to the New Year 2010. I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year. The VA was busy in December. We had a supper at Augustana, a bus ride to see the holiday lights, a Christmas party with the American Legion Aux. (with The American Legion State Commander Rod Martens present) and a lunch provided by Post 15 on the 23rd. I want to thank everyone who helped with these activities. We also had a Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, the annual volunteer holiday party and an all organization holiday party for the patients. There is not to much planned for January as it can get pretty cold outside. The VA office's will be closed on New Years Day and Jan. 18th for Martin Luther King Day. **Volunteers are always needed in all areas of the VA and the work is very rewarding for both the volunteer and the patient.** Remember to visit or call a sick or shut-in Veteran.

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.



Workers for the deployment of the SD Air Guard going to Iraq. L-R: Darlene Fletcher, Commander Curt Pansch, Bev Sievert, Auxiliary President Dianne Hudson, Jan Knutson and Hoot Gibson.

Chorus Notes

Mike Binger, President

Happy New Year for 2010 and hope that your holiday season was as splendid as ours! On November 29th, the 11th annual Christmas Festival of Men's Voices brought another large audience to the Washington Pavilion Great Hall. We sang "White Christmas" and "I Saw Three Ships" on stage following the solo appearances of the Minnehaha Mandskor and the Norse Glee Club and before the Sioux Emperians, the Singing Boys of Sioux Falls, the Salem-Zion Mennonite Choir and the El Riad Shrine Chanters. Following that the mass choir performed "Sing We Now of Christmas", "Goin' to Bethlehem", "Lo How A Rose E'er Blooming", "Do You Hear What I Hear", and "Glory Hallelujah Amen" before the traditional closing number, "O Holy Night". The concert raised more than \$10,000 to benefit The Banquet, and the event proved again to be a special part of the whole season.

By the time you receive this paper we will have sung at the Veterans Hospital for the 61st consecutive Christmas on December 17th. This month we are on the program for the Associated General Contractors on January 12th at the Sioux Falls Convention Center and at the Good Samaritan Prairie Creek on January 25th. The sales of our CD *America Our Heritage* are soaring and we will have it available at the upcoming appearances. Let me know at mkbng@tio.midco.net or my phone number 929-4867 if you wish to purchase our disc or if you want to join our ranks as a male singer. The schedule will be winding down some so it might be the right time if you want to experience our rehearsals, which will resume on the 11th at Post 15, 7:30 PM.

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
Curt Pansch

1st VICE COMMANDER
David Saunders

2nd VICE COMMANDER
Thane Johnson

ADJUTANT
Jim Stenseth

CHAPLAIN
Darwin Wahlert

VA ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN
John Weber

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

Chairmen: Terry Towns
Dean Berdahl, Gene Even, Butch Finton, Gary Henle,
Ed Powers, Ed Hruska, David Twedell

FINANCE OFFICER
Troy Rames

ATHLETIC OFFICER
Ed Powers

HISTORIAN
Terry Towns

SGT-AT-ARMS
Keith Bierle

LOUNGE MANAGER
Jerry Lage

THANKS POST 15 VOLUNTEERS!

Funerals, Color Guard, VA Activities

Paul Anderson, Dean Berdahl, Ken Brown,
Richard Cobb, Howard Daggitt, Earl Dains,
Don Earley, Gene Even, Butch Finton,
Ken Foley, Hoot Gibson, Gene Grocott,
Jim Hartsook, Dale Haas, Gary Henle,
Edward Hruska, Roland Jensen,
Thane Johnson, Glen Kelley, Roger Klos,
Lloyd Kock, Gil Koepsell, Dennis Korb,
Norb Kramer, Todd Kuck, Dick Lahn,
Durwood Lidke, Don Lounsbery,
Vince Maag, Dale Norstrom, Ed Powers,
Dave Saunders, Don Skadsen,
Joe Smook, Vernon Staebell,
Jim Stenseth, Darhl Timm, Gene Tornow,
Rick Towns, Hanford Twaddle,
Dave Twedell, Norm Varns, Darwin
Wahlert, John Weber, Robert Williams,
Bob Workman.



**Spend New Year's Eve
at Post 15**

No cover charge
Free favors
Hats and Horns
Free Lunch served
at midnight
Troublemakers
playing from
9:00 p.m.-1:00 a.m.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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



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