



# POST 15 NEWS



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

JUNE 2010



## Commander's Corner Dave Saunders

My fellow Legionnaires' first of all let me say what a Great Honor it is to be your new post commander. I'm looking forward to an exciting year, to be in the service of you and your

families. I would like to take a few minutes of your time to introduce myself to you. I am the Son of a WWII Veteran SSgt. A.L. "Cotton" Saunders 3<sup>rd</sup>. Army 80<sup>th</sup>. Inf. Div. I myself am a 9 year veteran of the U.S. Navy; I have been a proud member of the American Legion since 1988. And a Member of the American Legion Riders since 2009.

I was born and raised in Red House, WV, after finishing High School in 1974 I joined the Navy. Finishing up my tour of Duty with the Famous VF-41 "Black Aces" flying off the USS Nimitz and USS Carl Vinson. My tenure in the Navy was the most exciting time of my life, enriching me with life skills that I use every day and will continue to use in the service of my fellow veterans.

I joined the Legion 1988 with the West Kauai, Hawaii Post 51. While living on Kauai I was very active in the Post and served as the Post Commander for two terms; once in the early 1990's and again shortly before my move to South Dakota, in 2008.

After my time in the Navy, I worked at the Norfolk Naval Air Rework Facility, in the F-14 Tomcat, "Ground Test and Check Flight" section, a very successful and rewarding career. Then in 1987 feeling the pull of the Islands I returned to Kauai, where I met and Married the Lovely BeverlyLynn Sanae Honjo, who is a member of the Ladies Auxiliary and also a Legion Rider, riding her own motorcycle.

We have been married for 11years. I worked at the Kauai Test Facility, a Dept. of Energy, Missile Launch site at the Pacific Missile Range, Barking Sands.

Then in the spring of 2006; feeling the urge to do something different, I went to work for Monsanto (DeKalb) at the Hanapepe MSP site; as their Environmental Safety and Health Tech. Then in the summer of 2008 Monsanto offered me a transfer to the "Main land" after much research and prayer Beverly and I

decided that Sioux Falls, SD was the place we needed to be. We absolutely Love it here and feel this is truly where our Heavenly Fathers wants us to be.

Enough about me, I just wanted to let you know who your new commander is and "what's his story"

Let us take a few minutes to look at the events of this month. Let's all take some time to remember those who fought and sacrificed so much on the beaches of Normandy on June 6<sup>th</sup>. 1944. Then on June 14<sup>th</sup>. Flag Day, Lets all pledge ourselves to fly the Flag of our country, not just on this but everyday through the year.

I would like to invite all of you out to our Regular Post meeting on the First Tuesday of every month at 7:30pm (1930) our Men's Stag Dinner on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Tuesday of every month at 6:30 PM (1830) and bring a friend, as well as our Pancake Breakfast on the First Sunday of the Month (Oct-June)starting at 0900

In closing I would like you to know how humbled and honored I am to be your Post Commander. May God bless our Country, the members of the Armed Forces, serving at home and abroad, and our Veterans.

## Auxiliary Announcements

Dianne Hudson, President

May was definitely a busy month! Thanks to EVERYONE who helped with the deployment ceremony of the 196th MEB Army National Guard Unit, all the Poppy events, the National Commander visit, Honor Flight Dinner at the American Legion and many, many more events. What an awesome showing of the Auxiliary and the Legion working together for the betterment of our organization. You are all truly the best! The Auxiliary will be helping at the Pancake Breakfast on June 6th, and all the proceeds from this breakfast will be going to support the Honor Flight. If you would like to help at the Pancake Breakfast please call me at 370-2555 to let me know. The hours are from 9am - 11am or 11am - 1pm. The Auxiliary will be handing out small flags and flag comic books to all the children who attend. Since we are gearing up for the summer Bev has asked that we do not collect any coupons for the next few months. I will let you know when we will start collecting them again. We will see you at our next meeting on June 8th, at 7:00pm.

# Legion Riders

We had 21 members present for our May 12 meeting. Fifteen ALR members rode in the Loyalty Day Parade in Brandon on May 2.

Five ALR members rode in the Women in the Wind Poker Run. They commented that it was a very nice ride.

Several ALR members greeted National Commander Clarence Hill. Compliments were received from Commander Hill and Mayor Munson about how the ALR are always willing to help.

The American Legion State Convention will be held June 18, 19 and 20 in Spearfish. The State ALR meeting will be held Saturday. Time will be announced later.

Upcoming parades were discussed but tabled until the June meeting.

Remember Wednesday nights at the VFW is Burgers and Brats night. Proceeds go for the Honor Flights..

### Upcoming events:

- May 29** Woodlawn Cemetery. Marking veteran's graves.
- May 31** Present the Colors at the VA activities
- June 9** ALR meeting at 7:00 at the Post
- June 18, 19, 20** State Convention in Spearfish



Past Commander Curt Pansch pinning new Commander Dave Saunders.

## June 2010

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## POST EVERLASTING

Floyd Fritz, Dennis Griffith  
Doug Tuttle, Harold K Hanson  
Dale Weir



# June 2010 Legislative Notes

National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform met 4/27

Military's Health Care Costs Booming, Rare fee hike could hit retirees, families, (USA Today, week of 4/18)

Shelby, N.C. permanent host of the American Legion World Series.

PTSD fraud cases growing?

**Disclosure of nuclear numbers ends** America's official nuclear silence.

Pentagon In Race For Raw Materials

**Stockpiling Minerals Takes on Greater Urgency as Global Supply Gets Squeezed**

**National Guard Supports Oil Spill Response**

The Supreme Court on Monday, (5/3/2010), decided to let stand a ruling saying the Boy Scouts cannot lease city-owned parkland in San Diego because the group is a religious organization.

Despite Ariz. Law, Illegals Vow to Keep Coming

The Pentagon is more than a month late in releasing its investigation into its contracts with retired officers who serve as paid advisers.

"11 carrier strike groups for another 30 years when no other country has more than one?" Defense Secretary Robert Gates states realities must be addressed.

The Labor Department says the unemployment rate for young Iraq and Afghanistan veterans was 21.1 percent last year. That's well above the 16.6 percent jobless rate for non-veterans of the same ages, 18 to 24.

DoD Sets up Vietnam War 50th Anniversary Commission

House Votes to Rename Department of the Navy to the Department of the Navy and Marine Corps.

House votes on Puerto Rico Democracy Act. Passed, 223 – 169. (Herseth-Sandlin voted Yes)

**Immigration Fight Heats Up**



Harriet Kelley, Bette Hirsch and Jan Knutson during National Commander's visit May 10, 2010.

# SAL

Dan Wahlert, Commander

This month's meeting was quite productive, though the attendance was low. We had 6 members this month at the meeting. We would prefer more to be involved but we will continue to move forward.

There will be a benefit for our Chaplain, Chad Patch. Chad has been ill and is now in need of a liver transplant. The benefit will be held on July 18, 2011. There will be live music, food, door prizes and a 50/50 drawing. All Profits will go towards Chad and his family.

We are having a new raffle! This time we will be raffling a 48,000 BTU grill with side burner, a cover for it, a grill kit and a 20lb propane bottle. Tickets will cost \$2.00 each. The drawing is scheduled for Labor Day, but it could come sooner.

Keep an eye out for the New Legion Bucks.

## NOTICE: TRIP TO A TWINS GAME

The Legion is planning a bus trip to Minneapolis to attend a **Twins** game. **JULY 20<sup>TH</sup>**. Will leave Post Home about 11:30 am- arrive about 4:00 pm- Game at 7:00 pm Cost is \$59.00 each which includes ticket and bus ride. — Let us know if you are interested. Contact Jerry Lage, Lounge Mgr. at 336-3470 for more information. Tickets will go on sale June 1<sup>st</sup>. Anyone that has made reservations will receive priority.



National Commander's visit. L-R Dave Saunders, Hoot Gibson, Gary Henle, National Commander Clarence Hill, Alvin Lee, Michael Tideman, Roger Klos.

# VA Hospital Notes

Darwin Wahlert, VA Hospital Representative

On May 10th The American Legion National Commander' Clarence Hill was in Sioux Falls and had a tour of the VA Hospital. He talked with hospital personnel and Veteran's as he had the tour. We were honored to have him here even if it did rain. In May we went fishing, had a cookout and a gardening party. We also had Armed Forces Day and Memorial Day Programs as well as a Service of Remembrance. We also had the Annual Volunteer Recognition Program. A very busy month. Used clothing is not needed unless it is **3x or larger**. Volunteers are needed in all areas of the VA please give Volunteer Services a call if you can help. Remodeling season is here so watch for the signs and be patient and careful. Remember to visit or call a sick or shut-in **Veteran**.



Installation of Officers

Dave Saunders - Commander, Thane Johnson - 1st Vice, Dean Berdahl - 2nd Vice, Darwin Wahlert - Chaplain, Gene Tornow and Roger Klos - Board Members

## ATTENTION!!!!

Ace of Spades—A new game of chance, has started. It is located in the Pull Tab corner.

Rules are posted on the box. Tickets are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00. Drawings every Monday at 7:00 pm. Be sure to read the rules.

## Post 15 Senior's Pool Tournament

Tuesday, June 8, 2010

12:00 Noon

Light Lunch

Sign up on the Bulletin Board

Winners last month:

1<sup>st</sup> Place: Tom Korbal and Quentin Parsons

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Gordon Post and Don Johnson

3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Frank Sehr and Richard McDowell

Sunday, June 6, 2010

*American Legion Post 15*

*Pancake Breakfast!*

POST HOME  1701 W. LEGION DRIVE

June 6 ★ 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.  
ADULTS 4.00 CHILDREN UNDER TWELVE FREE  
PANCAKES • SAUSAGE • EGGS 

Proceeds Support Honor Flight

**HOURS OF OPERATION**

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

# JUNE 2010

**PHONES**

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		<b>1</b> Executive Board Mtg 5:30 pm Go Getters 6:30 pm Regular Business Mtg 7:30 pm	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Night Raiders 9:00 pm - 1:00 am	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> Pancake Breakfast 9:00 am - 1:00 pm	<b>7</b> Singing Legionnaires Chorus Rehearsal 7:30 pm	<b>8</b> Senior Pool Tourm. 12:00 Noon Aux. Mtg 7:00 pm SAL 7:00 pm	<b>9</b> Legion Riders Mtg 7:00 pm	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Road Trip Band 9:00 pm - 1:00 am	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> FLAG DAY Singing Legionnaires Chorus Rehearsal 7:30 pm	<b>15</b> Legionnaires Stag 6:30 pm	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Vet's Council Mtg. VFW 7:00 pm	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Dakota Daze 9:00 pm - 1:00 am
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Singing Legionnaire's Chorus Rehearsal 7:30 pm	<b>22</b> Ladies Stag 6:30 pm	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Troublemakers 9:00 pm - 1:00 am	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Singing Legionnaire's Chorus Rehearsal 7:30 pm	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>			

**Ladies' Stag**  
 6:30 pm • COST: \$6.00  
 MENU: Roast Beef  
 Beer Special: \$1.00 Taps  
 Liquor Special: Almaden Wine - \$1.50  
 \* BINGO \* RAFFLE \*



**Legionnaire's Stag**  
 6:30 pm • RAFFLE: \$100.00  
 COST: \$6.00 or Free Stag Ticket  
 MENU: Roast Beef  
 Beer Special: Old Milwaukee Light Taps \$1.00  
 Liquor Special: Black Velvet - \$1.50  
 NO LONGER NEED TO CALL FOR RESERVATIONS

NO LONGER NEED TO CALL FOR RESERVATIONS

# Veterans Forum

Pat Kroupa, Post Service Officer

Last month I wrote about the VA paying for emergency care at a non VA facility. As will happen, since that article went out the law has changed. A new law now allows the VA to reimburse an enrolled veteran for the cost of emergency treatment at a non-VA facility even if the veteran has outside insurance that only covers part of the cost. Previously the VA could reimburse veterans or pay outside hospitals directly only if a veteran had no outside health insurance.

This law was signed on February 1, 2010.

The law also allows VA to provide retroactive payments to veterans who has such care before the law went into effect if the Secretary determines that, under the circumstances applicable to the respective veteran, it is appropriate to do so. Unfortunately, we will have to wait until the VA develops the regulation implementing these changes to find out what those circumstances might be.

The veteran must be enrolled in the VA healthcare system and have received treatment at a VA medical facility within the last 2 years preceding the emergency care received.

If you have a claim or know of claims that can be filed under this new law, please contact me. I strongly encourage you to get them filed. You can reach me at 605-367-4201, 521 N. Main Avenue or E-mail [pkroupa@minnehahacounty.org](mailto:pkroupa@minnehahacounty.org)

## Chorus Notes

Bruce Naasz, President

The Legionnaire Singers have had a busy spring. We have performed most recently for the soldiers of the Veteran's Home in Laverne, Good Sam Mary Jane Brown also in Laverne, Dow Rummel, Trail Ridge Retirement, and for the National Legion Commander last Monday night right here at Post 15. Currently we are scheduled to perform for the 9:00am service at Grace Lutheran on Sunday May 30<sup>th</sup>, the Canova Legion on Monday, May 31<sup>st</sup>, and the Westminster Presbyterian 9:00am service on July 11<sup>th</sup>. We have been honored by a request for us to perform on June 24<sup>th</sup> at the Sioux Empire Fairgrounds between 6:30 and 7:00pm for the PRESA Salute to the Troops.

We have been busy selling the flag service that the chorus has become renown for. We have sold more then sixty new service since the beginning of the year and are more then half way to our goal of one hundred twenty. For more then forty years the Post 15 Legionnaire Chorus has post flags on eight occasions each year along the major streets of Sioux Falls. We appreciate the support of those business not only for the chorus but for the mission of the chorus represents that being to promote

Featuring the list of business supporting our cause in a route that starts downtown near eight street and ends out East 26<sup>th</sup> Street are the following: Olson's Get 'N Go, Bob's Drive Inn, Nites Inn, Grange Avenue Plaza, Taylor Pantry, Graham Goodyear, Key Real Estate, Craig & Nichols Bldg, Schoeneman's, Johnstone Supply, Midwest Welding, Midwest Boiler, Midwest Oil, Dakota Auto Parts, McDonald's Office, Electric Supply Co., FM Bank, Queen City Tobacco, Mid-States Uniform, McFarland Petroleum Products, Lee Burd, Attorney, Get Scissors, Dr. Donn Fahrendorf, Sather & Graber, Hegg Realtors, Pierre's Body Shop, Josten Concrete, Elliott & Anderson, WinNelson, Buck's Muffler, American Family Ins L. Jacobson. The men who deliver and pick up this route are Ed Larson, Chuck Davis and Jim Godbey, Thanks boys for your dedication through the years.



*Mayor Munson presenting the Poppy Proclamation to Dianne Hudson and Jan Knutson at the Sioux Falls City Council meeting May 10, 2010.*



*Dianne Hudson and Jan Knutson handing out pocket flags at the deployment ceremony of the 196th MEB Army National Guard May 8, 2010*

You can find us on the web at: [www.sioxfallslegion.org](http://www.sioxfallslegion.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, Jim Avre

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

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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

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