



POST 15 NEWS



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

MAY 2009

Commander's Corner Terry Towns



I must say this has been one of the fastest years of my life. It has been a wonderful year – I feel that Post # 15 has done a lot of good over the past year, but we have had rough times also.

With the passing of so many of our friends and colleagues it made it a hard year, but looking at all the good we were able to accomplish makes it a good year.

I would like to ask one more favor from you! We have not made goal this year **yet**, and I would like to ask each of you to think about your friends, neighbors, and relatives and see if you can find just one more Veteran to sign up for your American Legion. If just a few of you can do this, we have a chance of making goal and making my year as commander even better. If you have someone to sign up, call me & I'll get them a membership application or get one from Betty at the office. \$30.00 a year is really not a lot when you consider the great benefits we have to offer (i.e. Discounts at Sears Commercial, Dell Computers, various hotels, and many more.) and the support your dues provide to our veterans. Remember, I used to be an Air Force Recruiter here in Sioux Falls and I hate to miss goal. ;-)

I would like to thank everyone who has helped me over the last few years. I can't say thanks enough to Betty for all her knowledge and help. Thanks Betty!!

During the month, we lost one of our Executive Board Members and this year's Legionnaire of the Year, Bob Eggers. Condolences to Bob's family – he will be greatly missed.

Just an update on Honor Flight South Dakota Program – we are currently over 750 applications & getting more every day. Our 1st trip is going to be 1-2 May 09.

With your new officers taking the oath next month, come to our regular business meeting on May 5th at 7:30 to get to know them.

Our membership goal this year is 1737 and we are currently setting at 1636.

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

As I am writing this, my last newsletter I have to reminisce a little over the past year. It was a very good year as we handed out flags to all the children of the troops that were departing for the mid east to fight for our and other's freedom. Pocket flags produced by the Unit were passed out to troops to carry while deployed. We also helped welcome home the troops of B Battery by helping to serve lunch to them and their families at the Elmen Center. I would like to thank everyone that stepped up to help with those projects.

A joint project with Post 15 was to deliver 110 dictionaries to the 3rd grade students at Anne Sullivan School.

The Girl's State Tea will be held on May 3rd at the Baltic Post Home with registration at 1:30pm and the orientation is scheduled for 2:00pm. We are able to send 43 delegates and one Journalism City delegate to Vermillion thanks to the generosity of the many sponsors and businesses that contributed to the worthwhile project. Thank you to Harriet Kelley for a job well done.

The Mother's Day Tea will be held at the Sioux Falls VFW on May 2nd with registration at 12:30 and the program at 1:00 pm. Harriet Kelly will be the Mother of the Year from our organization. The Gold Star Mothers will be recognized during the program.

During the April meeting the following new Officers were elected for the coming year: Dianne Hudson as President, Jan Knutson as 1st Vice President, and Betty Hirsch as 2nd Vice President. Our Treasurer will be Lila Day, Margaret Mairose will be the Chaplain, Darlene Fletcher will be the Historian and Harriet Kelly will be the Sergeant-at-Arms. The new members for the Executive Committee will be Sally Dieltz,

Continues on p. 2

**Armed Forces Day May 16th 10:30 a.m.
at the VA MEDICAL CENTER**

**Memorial Day Service at the VA
Medical Center May 25th at 10:30 a.m.**

Auxiliary, continued

Leona Klutman and Mae Ranschau. These new officers will be installed at our May 12th meeting. During May 8-9 we will be distributing the beautiful Memorial Poppies to remind all Americans that millions have sacrificed their lives and health to keep our nation free and strong.

During the meeting we had three guests, Mark Weinmann, advisor to the Young Marines, Joee Taylor of the Young Marines, and Ms. Brenda De Graw of the VA Hospital Staff. Each presented their program and they were well received by the membership.

If, by chance you have any items to contribute to the Department Silent Auction at the Department Convention in June and are unable to attend I would be happy to transport them up for you.

Remember: "At some point in time every Veteran gave Uncle Sam a blank check made payable with up to and including 'my life' during their service. God Bless Them All."

Legion Riders

We had two guests at our meeting. Jay Bontje from Beresford was a guest. Jay became our newest member. Welcome Jay. Jay from the Veterans Resource Center in Vermillion gave a presentation on the Resource Center and their upcoming fund raiser, The Veterans Tour 2009. Shawn Mayer and guests will present a concert April 18 at the Valiant Vineyard Winery starting at 6:00 PM.

At the Swap Meet we sold chances for a tie blanket. John Steele from Tyndall was the winner. Congratulations John.

Jeannie Rabine presented the Rabies Recession Relief Event. Free rabies vaccinations for cats and dogs will be given. Call Jeannie at 605-371-3791 with questions.

Much interest has been shown for the Iron Butt ride. Contact Ron Richards at 332-3857 for information.

Upcoming Events

May 9 Breast Cancer Poker Run
June 6 Rabies Recession Relief Event

SAL Outdoor Bean Bag Tournament

MAY 17, 2009- 12:30 PM

There will be a \$5 entry fee. Prizes will be awarded.
WILL BE CANCELLED IN CASE OF RAIN

MAY 2009

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Issue Number 2009 - 5

SENIORS POOL TOURNAMENT

Tom Jellema, Chairman

The senior's pool tournament was played again on April 14th. We only had ten players, just enough to get a game going. Please bring more friends next time fellas. 1st place went to Leroy Christiansen and partner Vern Lanie; 2nd went to Bob Kogel and Bob Jacobson. Fine shooting from everyone. Lunch was provided by Manager Bruce, thank you. With summer coming on we should have more players trying to stay out of the sun so let's do it all again on May 12th at noon. See you all again soon. It's good to be back!

Post 15 Senior's Pool Tournament

Tues., May 12, 2009 • 12:00 Noon

Sign up on the Bulletin Board

SAL

Todd Kuck, Commander

We have elected our new board for next year. Commander: David Brown; 1st Vice- Todd Kuck; 2nd Vice- Dan Wahlert; Chaplain- Chad Patch; Secretary- Jon Freer; Sgt At Arms- Dan Tammen; Finance officer- Dan Wahlert. Joee Taylor was seeking donation for a trip to Washington, DC for the Youth Enrichment Program. The SAL Donated \$300 for the trip.

On the 19th of April we had 9 teams signed up for the Bean Bag Tournament. The winner of the Chili cook-off was Chad Patch. Bean Bag champions were 1st-Meyer and Tim Allmendinger; 2nd- Nick Christensen and Todd Kuck; 3rd- Dave Brown and Nick.

We will also have a outdoor Bean Bag Tournament on May 17th. Hope to see you all there. Hopefully the weather cooperates.

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.

Memorials

Memorial for Clint Bucklin from Steven Bucklin - \$40

POST EVERLASTING

John Fleming, Clint Bucklin, Bob Eggers,
Robert Stelzer, Floyd Mutschelknaus,
Gayland Hoffman, Ramola Collignon,
Marvin Stephenson, Vernon Krenz



TGIF DINNER

AMERICAN LEGION POST HOME

May 8, 2009 • 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

LIVER AND ONION DINNER \$8.00

MUST CALL 336-0155 FOR RESERVATIONS

Veterans Forum

Pat Kroupa, Post Service Officer

This is a little late but worth mentioning anyway - DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS CELEBRATES 20TH BIRTHDAY. President Reagan signed the Department of Veterans Affairs Act of 1988, elevating the VA to a cabinet level agency, effective March 15, 1989. The VA is the second largest of the 15 cabinet departments and is responsible for serving 23.4 million living U.S. veterans. The department operates more than 1,400 facilities, including medical centers, clinics, nursing homes, Vet Centers, regional offices and national cemeteries. Some still have concerns about the VA but it was a great step forward when it became a cabinet level agency.

HOME LOAN GUARANTEE - Have you been thinking of purchasing a new home? Perhaps your family has grown and you need more room or perhaps the children are leaving home and you would like a little less room. Or maybe you are thinking of purchasing your first home. With home prices dropping and interest rates low, now could be the time to buy and the VA can help.

You can use your VA home loan guarantee to purchase a home, purchase land and build a home, remodel a home, purchase a mobile home or refinance an existing home loan. Some of the advantages of a VA guaranteed home loan include: no down payment, negotiable interest rates, limits on closing costs, no mortgage insurance premiums, right to repay without penalty and VA appraisal.

The first step is to get your "certificate of eligibility". You can obtain your certificate even if you are not quite ready to buy a home. Then you will have it on hand when you are ready or when you find that perfect home.

For more information about the home loan guarantee or to get your certificate of eligibility 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.

VA Hospital Notes

Darwin Wahlert, VA Hospital Representative

When you get this newsletter it will just about be May. Time flies when you keep busy and here at the VA we have been busy. In April we had the annual pizza party provided by the Paralyzed Veterans of America, and National Volunteer Week. For the patients we had a Wal-Mart trip, two sub sandwich feeds and the Lions Pancake Breakfast. May 6th is the Patient Carnival (8:30 am--2 pm in the auditorium), May 8th is Volunteer Recognition Luncheon and Awards Ceremony and VAVS Committee meeting (12--3 pm at the VFW). May 17 is Armed Forces Day (10:30 am program on the VA grounds) and May 25th is Memorial Day with a (10:30 program at Veterans Memorial Park and a 1:30 Service of Remembrance on the VA hospital grounds). **Items currently not needed are lap robes, bed quilts, hard cover books, National Geographic, Readers Digest, magazines older than three 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. Remember to **visit or call a sick or shut-in Veteran**. Lets all remember what Memorial Day stands for and show our respect accordingly.

To my fellow Legion Family Members:

On behalf of my wife Beverly, our family and myself, I wish to take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks to all of you for the numerous cards, well wishes, and flowers received during my prolonged illness following surgery. The outpouring of well wishes, greetings and prayers were very much appreciated by us all. You may rest assured that you, The Legion Family, are being held near and dear to my heart.

Thank You,

R. E. Sievert

District One Commander
Candidate for Department
Commander



Commander Terry Towns giving her report at the District 1 Meeting.

HOURS OF OPERATION

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

MAY 2009

PHONES

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
	INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS MAY 5				Night Raiders 9:00 pm - 1:00 am	
3 Pancake Breakfast 9:00 am - 1:00 pm Boys State Orientation - 2 p.m. Lennox	4 Singing Legionnaire's Chorus Rehearsal 7:30 pm	5 Exec. Bd. Mtg 5:45 pm Go Getter Mtg 6:30 pm Regular Business Mtg 7:30 pm - <i>Installation of Officers</i>	6	7	8 TGIF DINNER (6-8 pm) LIVER & ONIONS DINNER Road Trip Band 9:00 pm - 1:00 am	9
10 Mothers Day	11 Singing Legionnaire's Chorus Rehearsal 7:30 pm	12 Senior Pool Tourn. 12:00 Noon Aux. Mtg 7:00 pm SAL 7:00 pm	13	14	15 Dakota Daze 9:00 pm - 1:00 am	16 Armed Forces Day 10:30 am VA Grounds
17 SAL Bean Bag Tournament <i>Outdoors</i> 12:30 pm	18 Singing Legionnaire's Chorus Rehearsal 7:30 pm Past Commanders 6:00 pm	19 Legionnaires Stag 6:30 pm RSVP: 336-0155	20	21	22 Troublemakers 9:00 pm - 1:00 am	23
24	25 Memorial Day LEGION CLOSED Memorial Day Service 10:30 am at the VA	26 Ladies Stag 6:30 pm RSVP: 336-0155	27	28	29 Vermillion Ampd 9:00 pm - 1:00 am	30
31						

MAY 19, 2009 • 6:30 pm • RAFFLE: \$75.00
COST: \$6.00 or Free Stag Ticket
MENU: Roast Beef
Beer Special: Miller Taps \$1.00 Taps
Liquor Special: Windsor/Lord - \$1.50
CALL 336-0155 FOR RESERVATIONS!!!



Legionnaire's
Stag

Ladies'
 Stag

MAY 26, 2009 • 6:30 pm • COST: \$6.00
MENU: Roast beef
Beer Special: \$1.00 Taps
Liquor Special: All Schnapps - \$1.50
*** BINGO * RAFFLE ***
CALL 336-0155 FOR RESERVATIONS!!!

Regular Business Meeting

Attendance: 30

SIoux FALLS POST 15 THE AMERICAN LEGION

DATE: April 7, 2009

The Regular Meeting of the members of Sioux Falls Post 15, The American Legion was called to order Commander Towns.

Colors were advanced by Sgt. At Arms, Bierle. Invocation was given by Chaplain Brown. Pledge of Allegiance and Preamble to the Constitution were recited by members.

The Adjutant read the minutes of the last Business meeting and the Executive Board meeting. The minutes were approved as read.

The Financial reports were given by Commander Towns. Motion by Towns and seconded by Jensen to accept the reports. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

AMERICANISM: No Report

ATHLETIC: Starting baseball soon

CHORUS: March- Sang at Legion Birthday Party-sang for a funeral. Accepting new members.

GO GETTERS: Membership at 1629- Presidents Award to Ellwood Wilson.

GRAVE MARKERS: Getting ready to do flags at Woodlawn. Will place flags on May 23rd. All are welcome to help.

LEGISLATIVE: No report

LOUNGE: All is well. Will be very busy in the next few months. Received a 96% in health inspection.

VETS COUNCIL: Need delegates for council. MAG will do another

Salute to Troops in 2010- would accept donations.

VAVS:

April 15th- Pizza Party

April 18th- PVD- Empire Bowl

Patients to go to the Lions Pancake Fundraiser.

VA HOSPITAL ACTIVITIES: No report

CHILD WELFARE: No report

HISTORIAN: No report

PAST COMMANDERS CLUB: - Meeting April 20th- All Past Commanders welcome

BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE: Some remodeling done in the Lounge.

JUDGE ADVOCATE: No report

LEGION RIDERS: Swap meet at Ramkota. Will go to Vermillion for send off of troops, also will be in Beresford.

SAL: April 19th- Bean bag tournament and Chili feed.

OLD BUSINESS: Trip to SAC in Omaha is not nearly full-need more folks to sign up.

MINUTES CALLING FOR ACTION:

Meal for HFSD on April 30th at a cost of \$700.00 - \$950.00. Motion by Klos and seconded by Darwin. Motion carried.

Motion by Wahlert and seconded by Wilson to sent one young lady to attend National Youth Leadership Conference for \$500.00- she will come to report at one of our meetings. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

District one meeting in Garretson on April 18th at 2:00 pm

Bill Dolan made a short speech he is running for AH Executive Committeeman.

Boys State orientation in Lennox on May 3 at 2:00 pm.

Election of Officers:

Commander: Curt Pansch and Terry Towns- Curt Pansch elected.

1st Vice Commander: Dave Saunders

2nd Vice Commander: Thane Johnson

Finance Officer – Postponed one month.

Chaplain: Darwin Wahlert\

Historian: Terry Towns

Sgt At Arms: Keith Bierle

Executive Board Members:

Butch Finton- 2 Years

Ed Powers-2 Years

Ed Hruska – 2 Years

Dave Twedell- One year filling Bob Egger's position.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

FUNERAL WERE READ BY: Adjutant

GOOD OF THE LEGION: Hire the Vet!

CLOSING CEREMONIES: Members stood in silent reverence of our departed comrades. Benediction was given by Chaplain Brown. Membership stood in salute as the colors were retired by Sgt at Arms Bierle.

Submitted By Gene Tornow, Acting Adjutant



Mark Weinmann, Hudson Post presenting Commander Towns with a check for Honor Flight.

Sunday, May 3, 2009

*American Legion Post 15
Pancake Breakfast!*

POST HOME  1701 W. LEGION DRIVE

May 3 ★ 9:00 a.m. till 1:00 p.m.

ADULTS 4.00 CHILDREN UNDER TWELVE FREE

PANCAKES * SAUSAGE * EGGS 

Proceeds Support The American Legion

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



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*Officers of
Sioux Falls Post 15*

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

OFFICERS OF SIOUX FALLS POST 15

COMMANDER Curt Pansch ***	FINANCE OFFICER ***
1st VICE COMMANDER David Saunders ***	ATHLETIC OFFICER Ed Powers ***
2nd VICE COMMANDER Thane Johnson ***	HISTORIAN Terry Towns ***
ADJUTANT Jim Stenseth ***	SGT-AT-ARMS Keith Bierle ***
CHAPLAIN Darwin Wahlert ***	LOUNGE MANAGER Bruce Kuemper ***

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

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, Don Earley, Ron Earley, Gene Even,
Butch Finton, Ken Foley, Hoot Gibson,
Gene Grocott, Dale Haas, Harold Hanson,
Jim Hartsook, Dale Haas, Gary Henle,
Edward Hruska, Roland Jensen,
Thane Johnson, Glen Kelley, Roger Klos,
Lloyd Kock, Norb Kramer, 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, Dave Twedell,
Darwin Wahlert, John Weber, Robert Williams,
Bob Workman.