



POST 15 NEWS



SIOUX FALLS AMERICAN LEGION

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

NOVEMBER 2009



Commander's Corner Curt Pansch

This was another great American Legion month. On September 18, I was honored to spend a few hours at the DAV for a POW reunion. What a great group. To a person, they never lost their faith in the United States or

their faith in God. One former POW, 95, survived the Bataan Death March, and, as his daughter stated, it was a 19 month death march, until he was liberated. Each had a story and all are heroes.

I was also honored to attend the first Community Covenant signing on September 19 at the Arena.

This was an impressive ceremony with the mayor and all local services represented. The Legion Riders and several Post 15 members attended. There was a mass swearing in of new recruits.

The veterans' Stand Down at the Salvation Army on September 25 was a great success. Many veterans received a much needed hand up. Approximately 50 organizations were represented. Vets were given meals, clothes, haircuts, counseling, hygiene items, etc. I learned there are programs in place to provide special phones for the hard of hearing. A good point of contact for information is Hoot Gibson.

Check out our newly refinished dance floor. It looks great. Now if we could just convince dancers to remove the metal cleats on their boots it would stay this way.

Post 15 hosted the Legion Minnehaha County meeting September 19. Past Commander Richard Cobb gave an informative briefing. According to the most recent statistics, Minnehaha County has nearly 14,000 veterans and only 3,000 are members of veterans' organizations. We need help in recruiting some of these vets.

If you are watching the news, the U.S. Supreme Court heard arguments for and against the World War I cross in the Mohave Desert. Your American Legion was the first organization to fight removal of the cross by the ACLU. Pray for a positive outcome.

The South Dakota American Legion has money available for low interest student loans. These loans can even be made to children, grandchildren and (possibly) great-

grandchildren of veterans eligible to be Legion members. If interested in details, I have the necessary forms.

The fourth Honor Flight trip leaves from Sioux Falls in November. Once again, Post 15 will host the veterans for a meal and informational meeting Thursday, November 12. There are several more trips planned for 2010, depending on funds.

Post 15 needs a Child Welfare representative. If interested, contact me. We also need photos to publish in this newsletter.

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

Auxiliary Announcements Dianne Hudson, President

At our October meeting we were privileged to have our Girls State Governor, Murphy Dods, Lt. Governor, Elizabeth Bunker and the Keynote Speaker, Claire Wilka speak to us about their experiences at the 63rd Girls State. What exciting stories they told us. Congratulations for a job well done to all the girls! Thank you ladies for all the wonderful gifts you brought to the meeting for the VA Christmas gift shop which will be held at the VA on November 30th, December 1st, and 2nd. If you would still like to donate an item or items please contact myself or Jan Knutson. Also if you would like to help veterans shop for their families you are welcome to come and help at any time during those 3 days. There is another Honor Flight that will be leaving on November 13th from the Sioux Falls airport and returning on November 14th. You are all welcome to greet the veterans when they leave or when they return. Veterans Day is fast approaching. It is Wednesday, November 11th and the program will be held once again at Lincoln High School at 10:00 am. Remember to keep the coupons coming. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, November 10th, at 7:00 pm.

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.

Legion Riders

Twenty Four members were present for the meeting. We have a new member, John Bauer. This brings our membership to 38. Lets all work on having 40 members by the end of the year.

Iron Butt awards were presented.

The Parade of Lights was discussed. Those nominated to the committee are Jeannie Rabine, Steve Jansen, Chuck Small and Tom & Karla Feltman.

We have been asked to help serve the dinner at the Post, on November 12, to the Veterans leaving on the Honor Flight.

We have been invited to stand in the Flag Line for the Dedication at Veterans Memorial Park on November 7. We will assist with other activities as needed.

Upcoming events

- Oct 31 & Nov 1** Swap Meet at the Ramkota
- November 4** ALR Meeting at the Post
- November 7** Dedication for Coming Home Statue
- November 11** Veterans Day
- November 13** Honor Flight leaving from Sioux Falls
- November 27** Parade of Lights
- January 24** Pool, dart and bean bag tournament

Memorials

In Memory of Donald Kuper from Dortha Kuper - \$100

In Memory of John Alvey from Alvey family - \$100

In Memory of Lawrence Schjodt from Mary & Bruce Medema - \$50

In Memory of Walt Wierenga: From Ron & Pat Arneson - \$20

From Anna Basche - \$10

From Helen Kunkel - \$10

From Darlene Schultz - \$20

From Vernon & Rose Marie Bockhoff - \$10

From Larry & Linda Schultz - \$10

From Len & Carol Webber - \$10

From Eleanor Steineke and Family - \$30

From Gary & Jeannie Northern & Family - \$150

POST EVERLASTING

Lawrence Schjodt, Gary Sona,
Timothy Hirsch, Roger Carlson



In the News...

Since I promised some legislative stuff on South Dakota law making, well, not much happening until January, 2010. However, the Department is already talking to some legislators. You know - making sure at least some of the legislation will help the Legion's four pillar goals here in South Dakota. As things develop, I will pass it along.

Some of this, highlighted and abbreviated, will be old news but does have some good information....

— Dean DeLashmutt

Military Times

Tricare Hospitalization Fees Go Up Oct. 1

A Senate committee reviewing the increased use of contracted health care for veterans disability exams and treatment is growing increasingly skeptical that this is a cheaper or higher-quality alternative to using Veterans Affairs Department health care workers

Not Everyone is Facing GI Bill Delays

By Rick Maze

A retired Navy chief petty officer has jumped in to defend the Veterans Affairs Department's processing of Post-9/11 GI Bill payments, saying he received his benefits on time and without much fuss.

Kevin Ramey, a retired chief fire controlman attending Old Dominion University in Virginia, said Tuesday he applied months early for benefits and spent a lot of time making sure he was doing everything right.

"My advice to veterans is to be proactive. Don't be afraid to ask for help. And share their experiences with fellow veterans and VA — the lessons learned this year will improve things in the future," said Ramey, who retired from the Navy in 2008 with 20 years of service.

Ramey, attending graduate school to earn a master's degree in public administration, said he applied as soon as VA started processing pre-enrollment claims in May and received his eligibility certificate June 30.

"This was not a delay. It was right in line with when VA said they would start sending out results," he said.

"There were a few delays along the way but, by far, the biggest delay was caused by the school, not VA," he said. Keith Wilson, VA's education service director, said last week that one issue could be that colleges and universities were holding onto enrollment certifications, which VA needs in order to finalize payments to institutions for tuition and fees, and payments to students for living stipends and book allowances.

Thursday is a big day for the Post-9/11 GI Bill; VA will be making living stipend payments for students whose claims have been fully approved. Payments will cover September and any days a student was enrolled in August.

Continues on p. 3

NOVEMBER 2009

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Issue Number 2009 - 11

Acknowledging that some students won't be paid on Oct. 1, VA is working on a process for issuing emergency checks beginning Friday. The \$3,000 payments will be advance pay, deducted from payments once they begin, VA officials said.

Vets groups join to assist GI Bill students

By Rick Maze

Veterans of Foreign Wars, one of the nation's oldest veterans groups, and Student Veterans of America, one of the newest, are coordinating efforts to provide transportation to VA regional benefits offices for students who need financial help now and cannot wait for the check to be sent if they apply online

KR-TV 3 (VA)

American Legion Will Help Students Fill Out GI Bill Paperwork

Students who use the GI Bill to pay for school will get help filing paperwork to make sure they get the \$3,000 promised to them.

A spokesperson from the American Legion says the group will help out.

Veterans can call the American Legion at 202-263-2995 to get help apply for and receive emergency checks.

Frost Illustrated (IN)

Kansas City Star

Vets Should Guard Against This Scam

A word of warning to all local veterans: If anyone purports to call from Veterans Affairs and asks for credit card numbers, bank numbers or any other financial information, watch out. It's a scam.

And a note to those involved: Playing on the health care fears of those who served this nation is about as low as it gets.

In this con game, the caller says the V.A. has changed its prescription procedures and — to ensure that medicines will continue to be available — the agency needs some financial data.

Sadly, veterans especially should be on their guard right now.

American Legion, September, 2009:

If you know of any Group 8, (VA category for veterans without service disabilities), let them know the VA has opened the door for signing up.

From the Congressional Quarterly:

Senate Judiciary Chairman Patrick J. Leahy has introduced legislation to reauthorize expiring provisions of a contentious anti-terrorism law. This is gaining support.

Communication among the various national security agencies charged with preventing future terrorist attacks has yet to reach a satisfactory level, Homeland Security officials told senators Wednesday.

McCain Rebuffed in Bid to Compel Afghanistan Testimony From Military.

Fort Dix is being merged with the neighboring McGuire Air Force Base and Lakehurst Naval Air Engineering Station to make the military's first three-branch base, a 65-square-mile behemoth stretching through farmland and forests and given the clunky moniker Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst.

Rep. Christopher Carney (D-Pa.) reported for active duty Thursday at Langley Air Force Base in Virginia, where he will serve through Oct. 13. Carney, one of three Members currently serving in uniform, has been in the Navy Reserve since 1995. He was promoted to commander last spring, and the promotion became official Sept. 1.

As of 9/27/09, (remember, I previously mentioned this is kinda overwhelming), there are now 3658 House and 1710 Senate bills before congress. So much more to pass, so little space to impart the information. Gotta go for this time. God be with all of ya....

<p>Sun., Nov. 1, 2009 <i>American Legion Post 15</i> <i>Pancake Breakfast!</i> POST HOME  1701 W. LEGION DRIVE Nov. 1 ★ 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. ADULTS 4.00 CHILDREN UNDER TWELVE FREE PANCAKES * SAUSAGE * EGGS  Proceeds Support Various Legion Activities</p>

<p>Nov. 13, 2009 • 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. AMERICAN LEGION POST HOME SPAGHETTI FEED SPONSORED BY THE YOUNG MARINES \$4.00</p>	<p>TGIF DINNER AMERICAN LEGION POST HOME November 20, 2009 • 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. STEAK OR SHRIMP DINNER \$8.00</p>
<p>MUST CALL FOR RESERVATIONS 336-0155</p>	

HOURS OF OPERATION

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

NOVEMBER 2009

PHONES

Office: 336-3470

Lounge: 336-0155 (room reservations)

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Pancake Breakfast 9:00 am - 1:00 pm	2 Singing Legionnaires Chorus Rehearsal 7:30 pm	3 Executive Board Mtg 5:30 pm Go Getters 6:30 pm Regular Business Mtg 7:30 pm	4 Veterans Day Program 10:30 am Lincoln High School Legion Riders Mtg 7:00 pm	5 12	6 Poultry Party 7:00 pm	7 Dakota Daze 9:00 pm - 1:00 am
8	9 Singing Legionnaires Chorus Rehearsal 7:30 pm	10 Senior Pool Tourn. 12:00 Noon Aux. Mtg 7:00 pm SAL 7:00 pm	11 18	19	13 Spaghetti Feed 5:30 - 7:30 pm Dakota Daze 9:00 pm - 1:00 am	14
15	16 Singing Legionnaires Chorus Rehearsal 7:30 pm	17 Legionnaires Stag 6:30 pm	25	26	20 TGIF Dinner 6:00 - 8:00 pm Troublemakers 9:00 pm - 1:00 am	21
22	23 Singing Legionnaires Chorus Rehearsal 7:30 pm	24 Ladies Stag 6:30 pm County Meeting Renner 8:00 pm	26	27	28	28
29	30			Thanksgiving Day CLOSED	Road Trip Band 9:00 pm - 1:00 am	

NOVEMBER 17, 2009 • 6:30 pm • RAFFLE: \$250.00

COST: \$6.00 or Free Stag Ticket

MENU: Meatloaf

Beer Special: Miller Taps \$1.00

Liquor Special: Windsor/Lord - \$1.50

NO LONGER NEED TO CALL FOR RESERVATIONS



Legionnaire's
Stag

NOVEMBER 23, 2009 • 6:30 pm • COST: \$6.00
 MENU: Meatloaf
 Beer Special: \$1.00 Taps
 Liquor Special: Almaden Wine - \$1.50
 * BINGO * RAFFLE *

NO LONGER NEED TO CALL FOR RESERVATIONS

2009 Veterans Day Activities

Wednesday, November 11th 2009

• Annual Commanders Veterans Day Breakfast

8:00 am

PAV headquarters • 209 N Garfield Ave., Sioux Falls

RSVP: 336-0494

• Veterans Day Program - 10:30 am

Lincoln High School

• Beef Stew at the American Legion.

Cake served by the Legion Auxiliary Unit 15

12:00 noon - until gone

• Veterans Day Banquet at the VFW

5:30 pm Social hour • 6:30 pm Dinner

Roast Beef • \$6.00 per person

Tickets available @ VFW

VA Hospital Notes

Darwin Wahlert, VA Hospital Representative

Well fall is here and it sure feels like it. Wet and cold weather and I am hoping for summer to return. At the VA we have been busy as we had two mall outings, a VAVS Committee meeting and the Women's Veterans Conference. On November 11th we will have a Veterans Day Program at 10:30 at Lincoln High School and a Service of Remembrance at 1:30 in the front lobby of the VA. On Nov 16th the Bloodmobile will be outside at the VA and Nov. 30th the American Legion Auxiliary Gift Shop. Remember daylight savings time ends on Sunday Nov 1st. I hope everyone will have a very good time and enjoy family and friends on Thanksgiving Day Nov 26th. Please also remember the **VETERANS** who are in the hospital on nursing homes or who are alone that day. **Volunteers are always needed in all areas of the VA and the work is very rewarding for both the volunteer and the Veteran patient.**

Remember to visit or call a sick or shut-in **Veteran**.

SAL

Dave Brown, Commander

First things first. The Sons are thrilled to be part of a young lady's journey to Washington D.C. Miss Joey Taylor came to us for support for her trip. She took this trip as a member of the "Junior National Leadership Conference." She visited museums and several National monuments. We of the Sons are pleased that our \$300.00 contribution was well spent. Congratulations to Joey for a successful trip and we thank you for learning so much. Due to circumstances beyond our control not all tickets were able to be turned in on time for the drawing this month. At this time the Sons wish to apologize to everyone that purchased a raffle ticket for the Wal-Mart \$200.00 gift card. We will have the drawing next month (November 10, 2009) and will continue to sell tickets until then.

Thank you to all who attended the meeting. Keep up your support and continue to recruit new members.

Thanks to those who attended the Sons State District meeting.

Many things were learned about the Sons and their many different fund raisers.

We are all looking forward to trying a lot of new things.

Chorus Notes

Mike Binger, President

America Our Heritage, our second CD, has now been released. It contains 15 songs and the price is \$10. Please see one of us to purchase your copy. My email address is mkbngnr@sio.midco.net and phone number is 929-4867. Or I am also on Facebook under the name Mike Binger.

If you see us in concert we will be selling the CD at events including Zion Lutheran Church on November 1st and the Good Samaritan Headquarters on west 57th for the Cosmopolitan Club banquet of November 12th. We next swing into action on the ice for the Sioux Falls Stampede vs. Lincoln Stars hockey game October 30th to perform the national anthem. Later on November 29th, the holiday season starts at the Washington Pavilion Great Hall with the Christmas Festival of Men's Voices. We also will be again featured in the Veterans' Day observance, November 11th at Lincoln High. Our agenda is up and running for the rest of the year, and hope to see you soon!

Veterans Forum

Pat Kroupa, Post Service Officer

Disabled veterans are eligible for the National Parks and Federal Recreation Lands Pass. This pass, which is free of charge to disabled citizens, grants access to National Parks. This provides access to recreation areas managed by US Fish and Wildlife Service, Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service and Bureau of Reclamation. To apply for the pass, disabled veterans should secure proof of permanent disability such as a rating decision letter, VA Healthcare Card noting service connected status or some other means. The veteran must bring that information to a participating federal recreation site or office. Keep in mind that this is a lifetime pass. The pass may be issued to US citizens or permanent residents of the US, regardless of age, that have been medically determined to have a permanent disability that severely limits one or more major life activities (such as caring for oneself, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning and working). For more information please contact me. Patricia Kroupa, CVSO
521 N. Main Ave., Suite 201 • Sioux Falls, SD 57104 • 605 367-4201
pkroupa@minnehahacounty.org

Post 15 Senior's Pool Tournament

Tues., Nov. 10 • 12:00 Noon

Light Lunch

Sign up on the Bulletin Board

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

OFFICIAL MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF
SIOUX FALLS POST 15 AMERICAN LEGION

OFFICERS OF SIOUX FALLS POST 15

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Keith Bierle

LOUNGE MANAGER
Bruce Kuemper

THANKS POST 15 VOLUNTEERS!

Funerals, Color Guard, VA Activities

Paul Anderson, Dean Berdahl, Ken Brown,
Richard Cobb, Howard Daggitt,
Don Earley, Gene Even, Butch Finton,
Ken Foley, Hoot Gibson, Gene Grocott,
Jim Hartsook, Edward Hruska,
Roland Jensen, Thane Johnson,
Glen Kelley, Roger Klos, Lloyd Kock,
Gil Koepsell, Norb Kramer, Todd Kuck,
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Ken Teunissen, Gene Tornow, Rick Towns,
Hanford Twaddle, Dave Twedell,
Norm Varns, Darwin Wahlert, John Weber,
Robert Williams, Bob Workman

Need Not be Present to Win
\$500 • 2 @ \$100 • Automotive GPS Navigator • \$50 Gift Card

Cash Prize Drawings
Food & Refreshments Available
Everybody Welcome!!
Bingo – Games – Ham & Turkey Prizes
American Legion Post 15 Home

7:00 pm
November 6, 2009
Friday

**POULTRY
PARTY**

SIOUX FALLS SINGING LEGIONNAIRES



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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



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