



# POST 15 NEWS



## SIoux FALLS AMERICAN LEGION

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

OCTOBER 2009



### Commander's Corner Curt Pansch

What a great American Legion month! The highlight for me was attending the National Annual Convention in Louisville, KY. There were many highlights but General Petraeus stole the show. Miss America, Katie Stam, was

impressive, singing the National Anthem and giving a speech. I've "condensed" the highlights into four pages and will email my report to anyone who gives me an email address. I can also make hard copies available at the Post. Hoot Gibson attended as Assistant Master at Arms. Your new National Commander, Clarence Hill, will serve us well. He launched a new web site; [www.clarencehill.legion.org](http://www.clarencehill.legion.org). Also, check [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org).

A proud father and Marine Veteran, Mitch Franklin (Fort Thompson), contacted Post 15 advising us his Army son, Isaiah, was returning home after 16 months in Iraq. Thane Johnson, joined me and about 25 Legion Riders meeting Isaiah at the airport for a patriotic "Welcome Home." The Hero and his family walked through two rows of flags at the bottom of the escalator. The entire airport cheered and applauded. Thank you Riders!

I attended a Sept. 11 ceremony at the Veterans Administration. The speaker, Greg Santa Maria, was a responder in New York after the terrorist attack. He did a great job and gave a keen insight into, what he described as, "The Day The Angels Cried." While 3,000 died, there were 29,000 saved. When the Air Force fighter jets flew down 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue they knew the worst was behind them.

Post 15 is the largest post in South Dakota. As such, I think we should consider naming the post after one or two influential local veterans. Let me know your thoughts. If you have a name in mind, write down a little history of the individual. This is just a thought, but I would like some input. Look for more discussion on this in the future.

The second Honor Flight from Rapid City successfully completed their trip. I understand there will be one from Aberdeen in October and another one from Sioux Falls in November. This is made possible by the generous support of many patriots.

The Disabled Veteran's Pheasant Hunt at Menno is scheduled for 24 Oct 2009. This is a change! Call me if you need a ride.

Please contact me with concerns or suggestions; home 254-2554, email [cjpansch@alliancecom.net](mailto:cjpansch@alliancecom.net)

### Auxiliary Announcements

#### Dianne Hudson, President

Well Ladies it is finally back to work. Our District 1 President Marilyn Hobbs, was at our September meeting and encouraged us to get out and sign up more auxiliary members and to get them involved. We have many opportunities for everyone. You have probably received your dues notice in the mail, but did you know that you can also get the "Legionette" mailed directly to your home for only \$3.00 per year? If you are interested in subscribing to the state newsletter please let Darlene Fletcher know. At the September meeting the budget was presented, and at the October meeting we will review it again and then vote on it. If you would like a copy please contact either myself or our Treasurer Lila Day. Also at the October meeting we will be collecting holiday gift items for VA Gift shop. Marilyn Hobbs reported that instead of giving many smaller items, choose fewer items that are worth a little more. They are in need of men's size clothing from large to XXXXL, especially T-shirts, sweatshirts and sweatpants, leather gloves large or bigger, and billfolds. For women it includes decorative sweatshirts of all sizes and sweatpants, gloves, towel sets, billfolds. Please do not purchase jewelry, jewelry boxes, alarm clocks, curling irons or hair dryers. This gift shop gives Veterans a chance to give gifts to the special people in their life. There are many members and family members that are battling illnesses and injuries, so please keep them in your thoughts and prayers. We will see you in October.

### Women Veterans Conference

**October 9<sup>th</sup>- 9:30 – 3:00 pm**

**Ivy Room-2425 S Shirley- Sioux Falls**

Call to Register – Shirley Redman  
VA- Phone: 336-3230

# Legion Riders

We had 21 members and two guests present at the meeting. The guests were Gary Miller and Carol.

Gary Henley reported on the National Convention. Some of the topics discussed were liability insurance, health care income guideline increases, \$650,000 was raised for the Legacy Fund, and there are 300,000 American Legion Riders in the United States.

There will be an upcoming pool, dart, and bean bag tournament. Watch for future details.

We had a short meeting so we could to the airport to greet Mitch Franklin's son. He has a three week leave after serving thirteen months in Iraq. His family from Fort Thompson was also present. He was very appreciative and personally thanked everyone in the flag line.

## Upcoming events

- September 27** Meet & Greet Brat feed at Post 15
- October 14** Meeting at 7:00 at Post 15
- Oct. 31 & Nov. 1** Swap meet at Ramkota
- November 27** Parade of Lights



Legion Rider Bobby Dysart at Beresford Parade



Thane Johnson and the Legion Riders welcomed home Isaiiah Franklin



(L-R) District 1 Auxiliary President Marilyn Hobbs and Post 15 Auxiliary President Dianne Hudson.

## 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.



Commander Pansch and Ed Hruska at the Job Fair table.

## Memorials

In Memory of Walt Wierenga from  
Sioux Falls Firefighters Local 814 \$30.00

## POST EVERLASTING



Lyle Larson, Walter Wierenga,  
Dale Haugan, Bob Hazard, Donald Kuper, John  
Alvey, Floyd Ellwein, Lawrence Anderson

## OCTOBER 2009

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1701 West Legion Drive, Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57104  
Issue Number 2009 - 10

# Veterans Forum

## Pat Kroupa, Post Service Officer

The Department of Veterans Affairs has recently made Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) a presumptively compensable disability. This means that if a veteran is diagnosed with ALS at any time after his discharge he will be paid service connected compensation. The veteran must have had 90 days of continuous service to qualify for the compensation.

This also means that the spouse of a veteran who has died from ALS is eligible for DIC payments and other benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs. Their children may be eligible for education benefits.

I encourage any veteran who has this diagnosis or anyone who has lost their veteran spouse to ALS (no matter how long ago) to contact me. I will be happy to answer any questions you may have and to assist you in filing a claim.

Patricia Kroupa  
521 N. Main Ave., Suite 201, Sioux Falls, SD 57104 • 367-4201



Commander Pansch at National Convention



District One Commander Richard Ekle and Darwin Wahlert presenting Bev Sievert with Dick's 100 Century Club Award

## VA Hospital Notes


### Darwin Wahlert, VA Hospital Representative


I hope everyone enjoyed Labor Day, the last three day weekend of summer. At the VA we had Patriot Day on the 11th, the 14th the Bloodmobile was at the VA, the 22nd was the first annual Veterans Craft Show and the 25th was Veterans Stand Down. We also had two movie outing's a cookout on the patio and a Navy Mother's Lunch. There was a very good turn out in the auditorium for the Secretary of the VA was here in September along with Senator Tim Johnson and Representative Stephanie Herseth Sandlin. In October we will have a VAVS Meeting on the 1st (1:00 pm) in the auditorium. The Women Veterans Conference will be October 9th. Thane Johnson from Sioux Falls Post 15 has been appointed as Deputy VA Hospital Representative. Welcome aboard Thane. **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.



(L-R) Adjutant Denny Brenden, State Commander Rod Martens, and Commander Curt Pansch turning in membership.

**Sunday, Oct. 4, 2009**  
*American Legion Post 15*  
**Pancake Breakfast!**

POST HOME  1701 W. LEGION DRIVE

**Oct. 4** ★ **9:00 a.m. til 1:00 p.m.**  
**ADULTS 4.00** CHILDREN UNDER TWELVE **FREE**  
PANCAKES \* SAUSAGE \* EGGS 

Proceeds Support Various Legion Activities

**HOURS OF OPERATION**

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

# OCTOBER 2009

**PHONES**

Office: 336-3470

Lounge: 336-0155 (room reservations)

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4 Pancake Breakfast 9:00 am - 1:00 pm	5 Singing Legionnaires Chorus Rehearsal 7:30 pm	6 Executive Board Mtg 5:30 pm Go Getters 6:30 pm Regular Business Mtg 7:30 pm	7	8 District 1 Meeting Centerville - 7:00 pm	9 Women Veterans Conference 9:30 am Ivy Room Dakota Daze 9:00 pm - 1:00 am	10 Vermillion Ampd 9:00 pm - 1:00 am
11	12 Singing Legionnaires Chorus Rehearsal 7:30 pm	13 Senior Pool Tourn. 12:00 Noon Aux. Mtg 7:00 pm SAL 7:00 pm	14	15 Vet's Council Mtg. VFW 7:00 pm	16 Road Trip Band 9:00 pm - 1:00 am	17 Navy Ball
18	19 Past Commander Meeting 6:00 pm Singing Legionnaires Chorus Rehearsal 7:30 pm	20 Legionnaires Stag 6:30 pm	21	22	23 Dakota Daze 9:00 pm - 1:00 am	24
25	26 Singing Legionnaires Chorus Rehearsal 7:30 pm	27 Ladies Stag 6:30 pm County Meeting Humboldt 8:00 pm	28	29	30 Troublemakers 9:00 pm - 1:00 am	31

**OCTOBER 20, 2009 • 6:30 pm • RAFFLE: \$200.00**

**COST: \$6.00 or Free Stag Ticket**

**MENU: Boneless Pork Chop**

**Beer Special: Miller Taps \$1.00**

**Liquor Special: Black Velvet - \$1.50**

**NO LONGER NEED TO CALL FOR RESERVATIONS**

Legionnaire's

## Stag



## Ladies' Stag

**OCTOBER 27, 2009 • 6:30 pm • COST: \$6.00**

**MENU: Boneless Pork Chop**

**Beer Special: \$1.00 Taps**

**Liquor Special: Almaden Wine - \$1.50**

**\* BINGO \* RAFFLE \***

**NO LONGER NEED TO CALL FOR RESERVATIONS**

## From Post 15 Legislative Chair Dean DeLashmutt

As Legislative Chair for Post 15, my focus is to inform you of any legislation affecting Veterans. I find this slightly overwhelming! Why? Because this year, there are over 1600 bills in the US House and Senate. (Past Commander Terry Towns forwarded information on these bills to me. Thanks, Terry!) I also will inform you of our state Legislature issues in the next Post News. Just too much to cover for one issue.

So, I will generalize a few categories. There are bills on: Social Security; Veterans' health benefits; buying homes; starting businesses; womens' veteran issues; VA issues; tax issues, (one in particular - - the Blair Holt proposal, **SB 2099**, requiring all who file 1040 tax forms to declare **all guns owned**. It may require fingerprints and a tax of \$50 per gun. This is an amendment to the Internal Revenue Act of 1986. This means the Finance Committee can pass this without the Senate voting on it at all! You can check on the Senate home page, <http://www.senate.gov>. Search for Bill SB 2099.) As of 9/11/09, this one doesn't seem to come to fruition as not a one co-sponsored this bill.

Additionally, there are bills for helping the homeless Veterans. The VA stands committed to resolving the homeless Veterans issue, soon! (I call attention to the Secretary of the VA, Eric Shinseki, visit to Sioux Falls, August 20, 2009.) The VA also seems committed to consolidation of services. The details are yet to be finalized.

And HR 333, among others, has a proposed tax termination act for disabled Veterans.

HR 775 repeals the requirement for reduction of Survivor Annuities under the SBP to offset the receipt of Veteran's dependency & indemnity compensation. (Refer to SB 535, also.)

HR 2254: the Agent Orange Equity Act amends Title 38, the US Code, to clarify presumptions relating to the exposure of certain veterans who served in the vicinity of the Republic of Vietnam.

S 535 SBP DIC offset elimination amends Title 10, US Code, to repeal requirement for reduction of survivor annuities under the SBP by Veterans' dependency and indemnity compensation, and for other purposes. (Refer to HR 775.)

Also, if you read your September, Legion magazine, page 22....the article discusses Group 8 Vets. The VA is currently opening enrollment to the VA for middle income without service connected health conditions for entry into the system. This is an opportunity a Vet should not pass up enrollment does close from time to time.

Several bills offer compensation to the Veteran caregiver.

That is only a few. If you have a particular focus on any Veteran issue, contact your Congressional representatives. I will be including other bills in future issues of the Post 15 News.

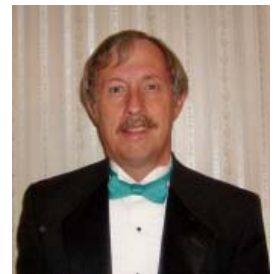
## Chorus Notes

### Mike Binger, President

Our new CD *America Our Heritage* will be released soon, so keep in touch. We want to sell all of you one! It contains the best of what we have performed in the last year and I guarantee you will love it.

The summer was touched off when we sang at Westminster Presbyterian Church on July 19th, and followed up at both Hope Lutheran and First United Methodist on August 16th. There are more church engagements we are currently working on to come in the fall. This weekend is September 19-20 as of this writing and we appear Saturday morning at the Sioux Falls Armed Forces Community Covenant Signing, which is a much anticipated event, and Sunday night at Brandon Lutheran Church for a special concert. On October 30th it will be our turn to render the National Anthem on the ice with the Sioux Falls Stampede when they face the Lincoln Stars.

In order to join our busy ones as a male singer, call my telephone # 929-4867 or shoot me an e-mail to my address of [mkbngr@sio.midco.net](mailto:mkbngr@sio.midco.net) for any questions. We love to hear from you!



(L-R) Hoot Gibson  
and Butch Finton at  
Homecoming  
in Piedmont.

## Post 15 Senior's Pool Tournament

Tues., Oct. 13, 2009 • 12:00 Noon

**Light Lunch**

Sign up on the Bulletin Board

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



Non-Profit Org.  
US Postage PAID  
Permit # 74  
Sioux Falls, SD

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



*Color Guard at Homecoming (L-R)  
Darwin Wahlert, Hoot Gibson, Curt Pansch,  
Jim Stenseth*

You can find us on the web at: [www.siouxfallslegion.org](http://www.siouxfallslegion.org)

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

**OFFICERS OF SIOUX FALLS POST 15**

**COMMANDER**  
Curt Pansch  
\*\*\*

**FINANCE OFFICER**  
Troy Rames  
\*\*\*

**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*

Paul Anderson, Dean Berdahl,  
Ken Brown, Paul Brude, Alvin Cink,  
Earl Dains, Ron Earley, Gene Even,  
Butch Finton, Ken Foley, Hoot Gibson,  
Harold Hanson, Jim Hartsook, Edward  
Hruska, Glen Kelley, Gil Koepsell,  
Durwood Lidke, Don Lounsbery,  
Vince Maag, Ed Powers,  
Don Skadsen, Joe Smook,  
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