



POST 15 NEWS



SIoux FALLS AMERICAN LEGION

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

SEPTEMBER 2008

Commander's Corner Terry Towns



I'm sitting at the Veterans Job Fair that we are co-hosting at the VFW. It's great to see so many people here and hope this helps a lot of veterans. The idea started about 2 years ago during one of our regular business meetings. Part of our closing remarks is "Hire the Veteran" – and I asked the commander at the time "What have we really done to help "Hire the Vet"? After much discussion and coordinating with the SD Career Center, it became a reality. We had a great turn out last year at the American Legion and it looks like this year is going to be another great event.

Changes sometimes start with an idea – that grows into great programs. The Honor Flight South Dakota Program is another idea that turned into reality. In 2004, it started with an idea by Earl Morse, a Physician Assistant and Retired Air Force Captain in Ohio that has grown to a national program. This is not just an American Legion program, but we have been invited to participate. The program is designed to fly WWII veterans to Washington, DC to see their memorial and no cost to them. We hope to see this program up and running within 3 to 4 months. Most of what we are going to be doing is getting the word out and coordination – not fund-raising. If you are interested in knowing more about this, please call me.

Changes and new programs can and do start with someone's idea or desire. Help out by getting involved in the American Legion and help us make things better for our Veterans!

Congratulations to our Honor Guard Team – they were just certified by the Department of Defense and the State of SD for honor guard services. Our team and the VFW team in Sioux Falls were the first two in the state to be certified.

Our membership goal this year is 1737 and we have already gotten 430 but that's increasing rapidly daily.

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 ttowns@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.

SPECIAL NOTICE

This is official notification that the Sioux Falls American Legion is proposing to submit a bid on the land kitty-corner across from the Legion. This land will be used for future investment purposes, and now for additional parking. We propose to submit a bid of up to the asking price of \$169,000 once the general membership accepts this motion. Voting for the motion will take place on 2 September 2008 at the Regular Business Meeting. This is the official notification to all members of this motion.

Auxiliary Announcements

Bev Sievert, President

Wow, where did the summer go? Now it is time to start planning for the fall activities. Our first meeting will be on September 9th at 7:00 PM. Hope to see a good turn out as we are going to address the Halloween cards that are given to the Veterans in the nursing homes.

Several of our Auxiliary members were present at the Air National Guard Hangar to distribute over 200 of the pocket flags to the 114th Air National Guard members that were being deployed to the Mid East. The flags were very much appreciated.

We can all begin clipping coupons again. Please do not include coupons good only at the local restaurants and pizza places as they are not valid overseas. Do, however, remember to add up the total amount of the coupon worth and put a note on the coupon bundle.

Darlene Fletcher, Our Membership Chairperson, indicates that you should be receiving your new membership notices from National shortly. Darlene's address is on the card and you should return your payment to her. If you know how many years of continuous service you have please check what is shown on the notice. If you have more than 16 years, please be sure to indicate it on a note and Darlene will correct it to National. There was a fire some time back and some records were destroyed.

The fall District One conference will be held at Beresford SD on September 28th 2008. The time and location are not firmed up yet and as soon as they are they will be posted on the bulletin board at the Post Home.

Legion Riders

I would like to welcome our newest member Robert Fredrickson III from Post 15, which brings our membership up to 24 at this time. We will be doing another raffle this year, but instead of raffling a shot gun we will be raffling off a \$300 visa card. We figured with the price of gas and everything this would be more feasible than a shot gun. The drawing will be held on November 1, 2008. Between Watertown and us we raised \$1362 for the legacy scholarship fund which Gary Henley took down to a meeting point where it will go to national. A few of our members went to Sturgis for the bike week and they all had a good time there. On the sad note they also talked about the accidents out there some of it was caused by the stupidity of the motorcyclist while others were caused by the other drivers. Although the riding season is coming to a close there are still bikers out there so please keep an eye out for us, because sometimes we are hard to see. We haven't set an exact date but sometime in January we will be doing another chili cook off with a bean bag tournament. We will be putting the date out as soon as we know when Super Bowl weekend is.

List of Events

- Nov 21 Parade of Lights
- Jan 2009 Chili Cook off w/ bean bags

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to email me at richardcobb@sio.midco.net or call me at 310-1952



Auxiliary handed out Pocket Flags to troops leaving for overseas. L-R: Dianne Husdon, Harriet Kelley, Avis Priest, Darlene Fletcher.



Chorus Notes

Todd Schmidt, President

It is with sadness that I have to report that this past month Chorus President Arnie Zueger tendered his resignation from active status with the chorus due to his increasing health concerns. Arnie served with distinction last year as our vice-president and he was doing a great job for us this year as president. Arnie was a longtime member of our baritone section and he will be sorely missed as a valuable singer and as one of our leaders. I'm sure he'd appreciate your calls, cards, and prayers. As a result of this unexpected vacancy, Mike Binger was duly elected as our new president, and Bruce Naasz was elected to take After a slight break in our summer performance schedule, we are now picking up the pace a bit with more performance dates leading into the holiday season. We recently performed at First United Methodist and at St. Mark's Lutheran here in Sioux Falls. In September we will be singing for an Army reunion gathering at the Downtown Holiday Inn; at Bethany Meadows near Brandon, SD; at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Sioux Falls; for the Women's Veteran's Conference in early October; and of course for the annual Veteran's Day observances here in Sioux Falls on Nov. 11. In addition to singing here in town on Nov. 11, we will also be performing an evening concert for the VFW and American Legion in Pipestone, MN, at the city's performing arts center.

As usual, we can always use a few more singers to join our ranks. Now is as good a time as any to come out on Monday night at 7:30 and sit in with us and check us out to see if you like how we practice. Perhaps you can fit us into your schedule now that summer activities are winding down.

POST EVERLASTING

Everett Ugland, Marion Brink,
Marshall White, Samuel Stahl,
Leo Cluts, Joseph Fleming, Edwin Speier



AUGUST 2008

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Memorials for Building Fund...

In Memory of Betty J. Martinek - \$1000.00
from Leonard, Carl & Craig Martinek

VA Hospital Notes

Darwin Wahlert, VA Hospital Representative

August has been a busy month as we have had three cookouts, a Canaries game (which was very good), a fishing trip, an Hawaiian party, and storytelling afternoon. We also had an ice cream picnic and a Service of Remembrance. on Sept. 5th we have Veterans Stand-down at the Salvation Army Building on Cliff Ave., Sept. 11 is Patriot Day, Sept. 15th is the Bloodmobile, Sept. 19 & 20 is former POW recognition and the Volunteer fall picnic with the (DATE TO BE DETERMINED.) Remember the construction going on the VA grounds and be careful and watch the signs. **ITEMS CURRENTLY NOT NEEDED; lap robes and bed quilts, used table games and playing cards. ITEMS THAT CANNOT BE USED AT THE PRESENT TIME; hard cover books, National Geographics, hard cover Reader's Digest, magazines older than three months, clothing, baked goods, used greeting cards and motel samples of soap, shampoo, etc.** Volunteers are still needed and the work is very rewarding. Remember to visit or call a sick or shut in Veteran.



New statue at Veterans Memorial Park

Veterans Forum

Pat Kroupa, Post Service Officer

WASHINGTON (AFRNS) — The Department of Veterans Affairs will now accept online applications from veterans, survivors and other claimants for various benefits without the additional requirement of submitting a signed paper copy of the application.

People can now file initial applications for disability compensation, pension, education, and vocational rehabilitation and employment benefits online. VA will process applications received through its online application Web site, VONAPP, without the claimant's signature. The electronic application will be sufficient authentication of the claimant's application for benefits. Normal development procedures and rules of evidence will still apply to all VONAPP applications.

VONAPP, found at www.va.gov/onlineapps.htm, is a Web-based system that benefits both internal and external users. Veterans, survivors and other claimants seeking compensation, pension, education, or vocational rehabilitation benefits can apply electronically without the constraints of location, postage cost, and time delays in mail delivery.

This month I would like to address those veterans who have been awarded a permanent and total service connected (100%) or permanent and total individual unemployability rating from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Because of this rating you may be entitled to additional benefits. These include:

Military ID cards - gives you access to the base and commissary and exchange; you will need a letter from the VA verifying your rating

Medical Care - you are now in Priority group 1, which means you are no longer required to make co-payments for your treatment or prescriptions at any VA Medical Center Dental Treatment - you are now eligible for free dental treatment at any VAMC.

CHAMPVA - medical card for dependents to help defray the costs of private medical care for family. Waiver of VA life insurance premiums. Chapter 35 educational assistance - up to 45 month of education for dependents. Free admission to Federal and State parks, including reduced camping fees. Additional state benefits including possible property tax exemptions for home owners

If you have any questions or would like additional information about these benefits please contact me at your convenience.

Patricia Kroupa, Post Service Officer
(605) 367-4201
pkroupa@minnehahacounty.org.

HOURS OF OPERATION

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

SEPTEMBER 2008

PHONES

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Labor Day CLOSED	2 Exec. Bd. Mtg 5:45 pm Go Getters 6:30 pm Regular Business Mtg 7:30 pm	3	4	5 Veterans Stand Down 9 - 5 pm Troublemakers 9:00 pm - 1:00 am	6
7	8 Men's Chorus Rehearsal 7:30 pm	9 Auxiliary Meeting 7:00 pm Senior Pool Tourn. 12:00 Noon	10 Legion Riders Mtg 7:00 pm	11	12 Back Pages 9:00 pm - 1:00 am	13
14	15 Men's Chorus Rehearsal 7:30 pm	16 Legionnaires Stag 6:30 pm RSVP: 336-0155	17	18 Ver's Council Mtg. VFW 7:30pm	19 Road Trip Band 9:00 pm - 1:00 am	20 SAL Bean Bag Tournament
21	22 Men's Chorus Rehearsal 7:30 pm	23 Ladies Stag 6:30 pm RSVP: 336-0155	24	25	26 Dakota Daze 9:00 pm - 1:00 am	27
28	29 Men's Chorus Rehearsal 7:30 pm	30 County Meeting Valley Springs 8:00 pm				

SEPTEMBER 16, 2008 • 6:30 pm • RAFFLE: \$400.00

COST: \$6.00 or Free Stag Ticket

MENU: Roast Pork and Dressing

Beer Special: Old Milwaukee Light \$1.00 Taps

Liquor Special: Windsor/Lord - \$1.50

CALL 336-0155 FOR RESERVATIONS!!!



Ladies'
Stag

SEPTEMBER 23, 2008 • 6:30 pm • COST: \$6.00

MENU: Roast Pork and Dressing

Beer Special: \$1.00 Taps

Liquor Special: All Schnapps - \$1.50

*** BINGO * RAFFLE ***

CALL 336-0155 FOR RESERVATIONS!!!



Terry Towns at Veteran Job Fair



Honor Guard receiving certificate as an authorized provider in the Military Funeral Honors Program.

Post 15 Senior's Pool Tournament

Tuesday, September 9, 2008
12:00 Noon

Sign up at Bar or on the Bulletin Board
MUST BE SIGNED UP BY 11:30 a.m.
– space is limited –

8 Ball Traditional Style

Best 2 of 3 in winner's bracket
Single game shootout in loser's bracket

Draw for partners - 55 & over
\$5.00 per person
100% pay back for 1st, 2nd, & 3rd
2 bits per game - table fee
Light Lunch provided

MEDICAL FOSTER HOME PROGRAM OFFERS A NEW PLACE TO CALL HOME

The Sioux Falls VAMC is pleased to offer another option for care for veterans called the Medical Foster Home Program. Caregivers living within an hour's drive of Sioux Falls are being recruited to offer a home environment and assistance to veterans who are unable to live alone due to medical problems. Two medical foster homes have passed the required inspections for the program, and we are seeking additional potential caregivers. The caregivers must be at least 21 years of age, rent or own the home they live in, and be willing to provide 24-hour care and supervision of the veterans. Care giving experience is recommended. A criminal background check and references are required. An interest in serving veterans is a must! If you know of potential caregivers for this program, please ask them to contact Kris Breitag, MSW, Medical Foster Home Coordinator, at 605-333-6861. Veterans or family members interested in this type of care may also contact her for additional information.



Color Guard at baseball tournament opening

Senior's Pool

Tom Jellema, Pool Tournament Chairman

The seniors pool tournament was played again on August 12th. I could not attend but Richard Cobb was nice enough to keep good notes for me. Thank you Richard. I was told it went very well. I'm glad we could keep it going all summer. 1st Place went to Vern Lanie & Partner Jerry McKinney. Congratulations boys. Coming in 2nd was Eli Corey with Partner Don Malcomb. I wish I could have been there. We shoot again on September 9th so spread the word and bring some friends please. Thanks Boys!

**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

VETERANS STAND DOWN

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2008

9:00 am - 5:00 pm

The Goodwill Industries, Disabled American Veterans, Department of Labor, Vet Center, VA Medical Center and the Sioux Falls area Veterans Service Organizations have joined together to organize a Veterans Stand Down. The event will be held at the Salvation Army building, 800 North Cliff Ave. in Sioux Falls. Our goal is *"Giving Veterans and their families a Hand Up and Not a Hand Out"*.

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
Terry Towns

FINANCE OFFICER
Leonard Martinek

1st VICE COMMANDER
Bernie Verburg

ATHLETIC OFFICER
Ed Powers

2nd VICE COMMANDER
Curtis Pansch

HISTORIAN
Terry Towns

ADJUTANT
Jim Stenseth

SGT-AT-ARMS
Keith Bierle

CHAPLAIN
Ken Brown

LOUNGE MANAGER
Dennis Bierle

VA ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN
John Weber

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

**Chairmen: Rick Towns
Dean Berdahl, Bob Brekke, Bob Eggers,
Gene Even, Butch Finton, Gary Henle, Ed Powers**

THANKS POST 15 VOLUNTEERS!

Funerals, Color Guard, VA Activities

Paul Anderson, Dean Berdahl, Harold Bosler,
Carl Edman, Bob Eggers, Ron Earley,
Gene Even, Butch Finton, Ken Foley,
Hoot Gibson, Harold Hanson, Jim Hartsook,
Gary Henle, Glen Kelley, Roger Klos,
Gil Koepsell, Durwood Lidke, Vince Maag,
Gordon Nelson, Don Norton, Ed Powers,
Dick Sievert, Don Skadsen, Joe Smook,
Jim Stenseth, Gene Tornow, Rick Towns,
Terry Towns, Hanford Twaddle, Darwin Wahlert,
John Weber, Bob Workman.

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.