



Bensley-Rounds Post 280

Post Notes

Iroquois, South Dakota



Volume 12 Issue 8

Myron Zeeck, Publisher

August 20, 2007

Next Meeting – September 6, 2007
Time: 7:30 pm.
At Post Home, Iroquois, S.D.

Sick Call: Dale Rounds, Tennis Snyder
Our thoughts and prayers are with our comrades during this time of illness.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Bruce Wintle, Jim Fox, Lyle Kleinsasser and their families on the loss of loved ones over the last few weeks.

All members are invited and encouraged to attend meetings as you input is always desired and necessary.



The Department of South Dakota is selling tickets for the proof rifle pictured here. Tickets are \$20 and there are only 500 tickets available. Drawing will be set when the tickets are sold. Contact Department Headquarters in Watertown for more information. *(This is a beauty and the picture does it no justice!)* Contact Dave Owens Sr for tickets while they last.

The Sons of The American Legion Squadron 280 held a Pancake Feed on July 21-22 and August 12, 2007. They had a good turn out with a great reception to the breakfast being held on both days of the Sports Day weekend. The funds raised will benefit the Squadron and its needs.



Jami Schoenfelder @ **352-5659**
or the VA, John Huntington @
1-800-316-8387, ext. 6551.

Give your name, last 4 of SSN, date and time of your appointment(s), your address and phone.

(Cut and Post on the Refrigerator)

“Keep The Dream Alive” 2008 Membership: 63.55%, Goal: 107

There is dissension among the ranks. This has been approached before and it is up to each and every Post member to help settle it. We have a problem with having 106 members of the Post and an average of 9-10 members who come to the meetings regularly and usually 5-7 members who volunteer time for activities or Post work days regularly. Frankly people are getting upset over this and sometimes get unruly. And Yes, I, your commander has missed some of these activities and work days. Not a good example for sure, but I do listen.

"You have the highest of human trusts committed to your care. Providence has showered on this favored land blessings without number, and has chosen you as the guardians of freedom, to preserve it for the benefit of the human race. May He who holds in his hands the destinies of nations, make you worthy of the favors He has bestowed, and enabled you with pure hearts and hands and sleepless vigilance, to guard and defend to the end of time, the great charge He has committed to your keeping." -- J. Reuben Clark

It must be said that 20 or so of our members live out of state, and several members have health issues that do not allow them to get out on a regular basis. It's the other 40 to 50 members who are, I know, dedicated members, yet they fail to take part in the Post activities. Many of them work long hours, many have kids to tend to, but, it is to the point that they cannot attend or volunteer time?

Frankly, you are what the American Legion is all about. And you will only get out of it what you put into it. Put nothing in, you will get nothing back.

Last year, I sent out a letter to the membership and it did cover some of this. My thoughts have not changed as all I ask is that each member, who is able, to pitch in 2 or 3 times a year and we would have it made. Some of them have done so, and I thank them.

I have enjoyed being the Post commander and look forward to serving again. We have a good Post membership, and it could be even greater if we had more participation. And as the commander I have worked hard to put our Post and its activities back in the community and I have succeeded, now I need your

help to keep it there. The school year is here and we have many activities to coincide with it.



The Four Pillars of The American Legion



September 14th is the IHS homecoming and we will need a Color Guard for the game that night. The detail will include a Blue Star Banner presentation at half time in which the Color Guard will be required.

Also later on in the year, there will be parents night where the SAL Squadron will provide the Color Guard.

Speaking of the Sons of the American Legion Squadron, these young men really have shown the true nature of our Post membership, they have shown that we, as a Post, can be counted on to pick up the slack. They truly deserve our thanks for their support and their hard work. As I am also the Squadron commander, I take no credit for the work these young men have done, they are the heart of the Squadron, so please support them. The Iroquois Squadron is well known throughout South Dakota and is a model Squadron for the Detachment of South Dakota.

Our ladies of the Auxiliary, work hard for our Post also, and we should thank them as well. And our daughters of the Junior Auxiliary, have provided valuable help also.



L to R: Brent Matter, Leo Dunham, Colin Royal, and A.J. Royal

Sons of The American Legion Squadron 280 provided the Color Guard for the Memorial Service held Saturday, August 18, 2007 at the Royal C Johnson VA Medical Center in Sioux Falls. These services are held quarterly at the VA Center and are in memory of an average of about 300 veterans who pass each quarter in this service area. The families and the participants were very pleased and impressed, thus the

Squadron has been asked to return for the next year for the August service.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT:

Membership is going well, we have 35 people who have yet to pay their dues. Please get them paid as soon as possible. Also we need four new members to meet the membership goal.

Also while looking for Post members, don't forget to recruit SAL and Auxiliary members, as they are an important part of our family. Dues are Post \$25, SAL \$10, Auxiliary \$10, and Jr Auxiliary is \$2. These are low costs for membership in the greatest organization for veterans. And the benefits will pay for these costs over and over. And most importantly, you get a voice in your veterans rights and benefits.

AMERICANISM REPORT

In the coming months we have several activities that will need our attention. The American Legion National High School Oratorical Contest, Veterans Day, membership night, poultry party, Patriot Day, Citizenship Day and more. Shortly after this writing the Iroquois Fifth grade class will be indoctrinated in to the task of this year's school colors custodians.

The Post has received a n Americanism award from the National Headquarters for its hard work during the 2006 – 2007 year. Thank you to all those who participated and for your hard work.

Commander Morin: Legion Signs Raise Awareness



Drive into any community across the country and you're typically greeted by a sign reading something like, "Welcome to Greenfield. Pop. 14,345." Below the welcome sign, or perhaps mounted nearby, are perhaps the emblems of Kiwanis, the Rotary and the Lions Club - all well-respected organizations that have been doing good in their communities for more than nine decades.

Since 1919, The American Legion has been doing similar good. But do you see the organization's emblem on town welcome sign?

If not, there's a relatively easy and inexpensive way to make that happen. It may not seem like much, but a simple American Legion emblem leading into your community can increase membership, create awareness about the services and programs of the Legion, and drive traffic to post-home facilities. The signs are affordable and available from Emblem Sales.

More at:

http://www.legion.org/vision/currentevents/2007/07/commander_morinlegion_signs_ra.html

Here at our Post we have left over signs from the replacement of the Post sign out front. All that is needed is to place them on a metal backing and post them. We will look at this at the next meeting.

If you would like to add something to the newsletter, please get it to Colin Royal or Myron Zeeck and we'll include it for you. Copies of the newsletter and the upcoming agenda are also available at the Post website at www.americanlegionsd280.org in PDF format.

Colin Royal, Commander

"The liberties of our country, the freedom of our civil Constitution, are worth defending at all hazards; and it is our duty to defend them against all attacks. We have received them as a fair inheritance from our worthy ancestors: they purchased them for us with toil and danger and expense of treasure and blood, and transmitted them to us with care and diligence. It will bring an everlasting mark of infamy on the present generation, enlightened as it is, if we should suffer them to be wrested from us by violence without a struggle, or to be cheated out of them by the artifices of false and designing men." -- Samuel Adams