



Bensley-Rounds Post 280

Post Notes

Iroquois, South Dakota



Volume 12 Issue 11

Myron Zeeck, Publisher

November 21, 2007

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

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

COMMANDER ANNOUNCES MIDWINTER CONFERENCE (reprinted from Up To Now #2962)

The South Dakota American Legion MidWinter Conference will be held Friday through Sunday, February 8-10, 2008 at the Cedar Shore Resort in Oacoma, SD. The resort has established a rate of \$62.95 + tax, for single or double occupancy room. The deadline for making reservations is January 7, 2008. Each individual is responsible for making their own lodging arrangements. Individuals are restricted from reserving more than two rooms. Reservations can be made by calling Cedar Shore Resort at 605-734-6376. When making your reservations make sure you mention that you will be attending The American Legion MidWinter Conference. This year's schedule of events is similar to last year's conference:

Friday, February 8

Administrative and Executive Committee Meetings
Go-Getter's Social and Dinner
Past Department Commanders' Social and Dinner

Saturday, February 9

Joint Legion/Auxiliary/SAL Opening Session
Legion General Assembly
Auxiliary Meetings
SAL Meetings

Joint Legion/Auxiliary/SAL Banquet

Sunday, February 10

Legion Non-Denominational Religious Service
Department Oratorical Contest
Athletic Commission Meeting

This year's conference promises to be both informational and inspirational. Educational opportunities will abound as briefings will be provided on numerous American Legion programs. Plan now to attend and if possible - bring someone from your Post who has never attended a MidWinter conference before.

MIDWINTER BANQUET TICKETS

Tickets for the MidWinter Conference Joint Banquet will be by advanced sales only. No tickets will be

"Keep The Dream Alive"
2008 Membership: 84.11%, Goal: 107

available at the event. The Joint Banquet will be held Saturday, February 9, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. Dinner menu is a choice of walleye or steak. The event will be preceded by a no-host cocktail hour commencing at 6:00 p.m. Tickets are available from the Chamberlain American Legion Post. Tickets are \$25.00 each and can be obtained by sending \$25.00 per ticket requested, along with information as to whether the ticket is for the walleye dinner or the steak dinner, to Potter American Legion Post 3, PO Box 348, Chamberlain, SD 57325.



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.

The kitchen siding project is completed. I wish to thank those that have assisted with this project for their hard work and dedication.

We still need to locate the leak which keeps soaking the kitchen. Hopefully we will locate it before it does too much more damage to the ceiling and floor.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT:

Membership is going well, we have 17 people who have yet to pay their dues. Please get them paid as soon as possible. Also we need three new members to meet the membership goal.

A big welcome goes out to new member: Clinton Walker of Bancroft. Congratulations and welcome aboard!

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,

Checkout the Website at: www.americanlegionsd280.org

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.



Rick Soma, Principal and Instructor of Iroquois High School is pictured here with Cmdr. Colin Royal of the Bensley-Rounds American Legion Post 280 of Iroquois, was presented with the Post Educator of the Year Award in conjunction with the American Legion's celebrating American Education Week on November 12, 2007. Mr. Soma was awarded for his continued service to the communities of Iroquois, Cavour, Yale, and Bancroft. A native of Oldham, SD, in his 28th year of teaching at the Iroquois High School he has made the changes through out the years from adding machines and typewriters to the computers and office equipment currently being used. Over the years Mr. Soma additionally assumed the duties of the Vice Principal and with the retirement of Don Olson in 2001, he became the High School Principal. He continues to teach typing, business, and computers in addition to his administrative duties.

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, youth Christmas party, and more.

Oratory Contest briefing was held on November 8, 2007, we had 3 students visited with. This contest if we hold one locally will need to be completed by December 23, 2007.

Captain Loos of the Salvation Army in Huron has called and set a date for us to ring the bell on Saturday December 1, 2007 from 10:00AM to 6:00PM inside the front doors of Kmart. If you would like to volunteer for this project please contact Colin Royal at 354-0310 to get your name on the list and your preferred time. It is my hope that Santa will stop in again this year and help out.



On November 12, 2007 at 12:30PM we presented a Veteran's Program to the students of the Iroquois School. Volunteers present to talk about their careers were Colin Royal, Carl Matter and Charemon Dunham. The portraits and the list of Iroquois Vietnam veterans was presented by Carl Matter.



The youth Halloween party was held on October 27, 2007. The hall was decorated and the kids came in their costumes and had a wonderful time. As we look ahead, we hope to see all the kids again next year.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY UNIT 280 NEWS

The Auxiliary will be preparing a Potluck dinner for our veterans on December 5, 2007 at 6:30PM as per the Unit President, Charemon Dundam, at the Post Home. The menu this year should compliment a roast turkey and gravy prepared and donated by Zona Zeek.

Five members attended the Post membership steak dinner. Thank you the Post members for their invitation, good food and social.

The Unit hosted the District 2 Auxiliary meeting on November 8, 2007. There were 14 members from District 2 present as well as District 2 President Karen Brown. Items discussed included Scholarships,

Pastoral Services, Linus Project and much more.

DEPARTMENT HISTORIAN WINS AWARDS

(reprinted from Up To Now #2961)

National Historian James M. Holmes recently announced the results of the 2007 National American Legion History Contest.

One-Year Department Narrative History Contest — 1st place— Department of South Dakota
One-Year Department Yearbook History Contest are: 1st place— Department of Ohio; 2nd place— Department of South Dakota and the Department of North Carolina.

South Dakota had two Posts that will receive certificates of participation in the Post level competition. Stratford Post 207 of Stratford is recognized for participating in the One-Year Post Narrative History Contest and William H. Crippen Post 62 of Humboldt is recognized for participating in the One-Year Post Yearbook History Contest.

Congratulations to Charemon Dunham and to the Stratford Historian Thomas Saunders and Humboldt Historian Fred Lee.

VETERANS OUTREACH FORUM SCHEDULE

(reprinted from Up To Now #2962)

Department Veterans Service Officer Warren Aas has been conducting Veterans Outreach Benefits Forums across the state during the past couple of months. The briefings will continue to be held in various locations across the state until at least one forum has been held in each of the Department's 14 Districts.

The schedule for future Veterans Outreach Benefits Forums is as follows:

- December 10 - District 14 in Leola
- December 12 - District 5 in Redfield
- January 7 - District 1 in Tea
- January 8 - District 2 in DeSmet
- February 4 - District 4 in Britton
- February 5 - District 3 in Clear Lake

All Legionnaires, their spouses and other veterans should be encouraged to attend one of these forums. This is a valuable, educational opportunity to possibly learn about benefits you are eligible for that you were previously unaware of. Don't let this opportunity pass you by. The forums are free and open to everyone.

The Iroquois School Christmas dinner will be Thursday December 20, 2007. Volunteers are requested to help deliver meals to the senior citizens who order them or to provide transportation as needed. About 50 meals are prepared for the seniors who order them out or come in for the meal. The meals will be set for delivery at 12:30PM and the show time is 12:15PM for the volunteers.

Soon, we will be looking at the Firefighter/EMT of the Year. Candidates will be from the Iroquois,

Cavour and Yale area. The packets have been sent to the local fire departments.

We will also be having a Christmas Party for the area youth again this year. It is scheduled for December 15, 2007 at 2:00PM. If you would like to help or contribute, contact Laci, Sheri or Bob Blue.

The pancake/French toast breakfast held on November 18th was a great success. Thank you to Annette Dunham, Myron and Zona Zeeck for all the help and hard work. The next date will be December 9, 2007 and will be for the Youth Activity Fund.

The next Kingsbury County Meeting will be held at DeSmet at 8:00PM on December 5, 2007.

THANK A VETERAN

(reprinted from Up To Now #2961)

With thousands of troops deployed overseas, The American Legion has launched a free, easy way to thank them for their service on the eve of Veterans Day. The American Legion is offering free electronic greeting cards for veterans. Anyone who has an e-mail address can receive the special cards. The American Legion site www.legion.org (click on E-cards for Veterans) offers e-mail cards representing each military service along with the service song that plays when the card is opened. Each card also provides plenty of space to compose a personal message. Please take a few moments to brighten the day of one or more of America's veterans.

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION SQUADRON 280 NEWS

Squadron 280 has been busy through the summer with the breakfasts and volunteer work. Also they have taken part in two funerals and Color Guards for the Sports Day parade, Homecoming parade, and a football game. They have also assisted in the September and October pancake breakfasts.

As with the Post, the Squadron membership renewals have gone out and are now due. Also if your son(s) is not a member, sign him/them up. They now get the same benefits as the Post members.

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 American Legion – It's Who We Are.

Finish each day and be done with it. You have done what you could; some blunders and absurdities have crept in; forget them as soon as you can. Tomorrow is a new day; you shall begin it serenely and with too high a spirit to be encumbered with your old nonsense.

- Ralph Waldo Emerson