



# Bensley-Rounds Post 280

## Post Notes

Iroquois, South Dakota



Volume 13 Issue 3

Myron Zeeck, Publisher

March 21, 2008

Next Meeting – April 3, 2008  
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. If you want your opinion voiced and your vote to count, then please come to the meetings. This is the only way that this will happen.



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.



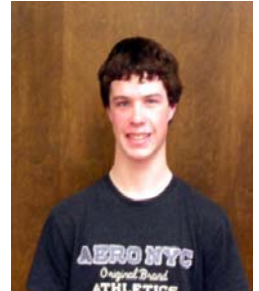
Congratulations to Annette Dunham who was elected as the 2007 Post Legionnaire of the Year. She has done a fine job this last year and she deserves it. Deb Jennings came in with a close second by one vote.

On March 6, 2008 at 2:00PM we selected Jason Madison, son of Barb and Jeff Madison of rural Iroquois as the 2008 Boys State Delegate.

Checkout the Website at: [www.americanlegionsd280.org](http://www.americanlegionsd280.org)

**“Keep the Dream Alive”**  
**2008 Membership: 100.93%**

Congratulations to Jason!! The Auxiliary selected Brittany DeJong as the Girls State delegate and Hillary Bohlander as alternate. Congratulations girls!!



The pancake/French toast breakfast held on March 9th was a great success. Thank you to Colin Royal, Annette Dunham, Carl Matter and Brent Matter for all the help and hard work. The next date will be April 13, 2008 and will be for the Iroquois Museum.

### MEMBERSHIP REPORT:

Membership is outstanding as we have reached 100 percent plus. We have 3 people who have yet to pay their dues. Please get them paid as soon as possible.

Also while looking for Post members, don't forget to recruit SAL and Auxiliary members, as they are an important part of our family, and family is a great place to start. Get them involved and our Post could be even better than it is. 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 veteran's rights and benefits.

The next Kingsbury County Meeting will be held at In Iroquois at 8:00PM on March 26, 2008. The meal following the meeting will be Spaghetti.



Similar photo of the ATV being raffled.

Kingsbury County is also selling tickets for a chance on an Arctic Cat H1 650 4x4 ATV. They are \$20

each and there are 770 tickets. This is a fund raiser for he Kingsbury County Boys State Scholarship fund. The drawing will be held after all the tickets are sold. The drawing has been set for November 11, 2008 at the Veterans Day program.

The annual elections are here and if you would like to step up for a position, contact the Nomination Committee, which consists of Dave Owens Sr, Deb Jennings, and Herb Rusche. As of the last meeting, Colin Royal was the only one volunteering for a Post officer.

The District 2 Spring Conference and Banquet April 25, 2008 at the District 2 Spring Convention to be held at Badger, SD. Tickets for the meal are \$10, Social begins at 6:00PM, Meal is at 7:00PM with the meeting to follow at 8:00PM.

The Post Constitution and By-laws will have a first reading at the next meeting. These are necessary documents for the Post and I hope that our members will come in and supply their thoughts.

### **SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION SQUADRON 280 NEWS**

Squadron 280 has assisted in the March pancake breakfast. The Squadron had a bowling night on March 15, 2008 followed by a pizza supper. Although we had a small turnout, the Squadron members present had a lot of fun and were already planning the next outing.

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.



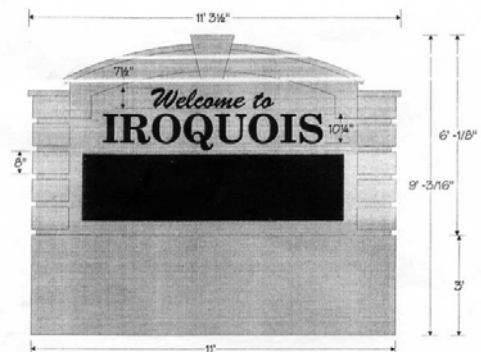
The Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of South Dakota, is selling tickets for a Benelli Nova 12 gauge 3 1/2 " Magnum Shot Gun as a fund raiser. The gun has two additional chokes and a hard case. Tickets are available from Squadron members; they are \$5 each or 3 for \$10. Drawing date is to be set at the April Executive Committee meeting, and is expected to be at the Detachment Convention June 14, 2008. The winner may choose from the shot gun or \$300 in cash at that time.

When an American says that he loves his country, he means not only that he loves the New England hills, the prairies glistening in the sun, the wide and rising plains, the great mountains, and the sea. He means that he loves an inner air, an inner light in which freedom lives and in which a man can draw the breath of self-respect. ~Adlai Stevenson

You have to give credit to or Sons of The American Legion Squadron, as the issue I raised last month about the flag over the cemetery, Brent Matter suggested a high intensity solar LED light assembly for the lightning issue of the flag. The cost of the flag was not as big of an issue as was the proper lighting. The solar LED light is a highly feasible project With the reliability of the LED lighting of today, this would almost be a virtually one-time expense, except for replacing the rechargeable batteries every other year or so. More information will follow as it is available.

The opening of Bingo is coming up, and it has been suggested that we switch the Bingo to Sunday afternoons. This issue will be decided this next meeting. Should we try a change and go to Sunday afternoons, the first Bingo will be April 27, 2008 otherwise we will look at May 2, 2008 as the first bingo due to the District 2 Conference on April 25<sup>th</sup>. Also we will need people to work in any case, so please pitch in and help.

The Iroquois Community Club meets each month, and I would like to have a representative from the Post to attend these meetings each month. This would be a volunteer position as liaison between the Post and the Community Club. The next meeting is April 7, 2008 at 7:00PM at the fire hall. This is also a joint meeting with the Sports Day Committee.



Also the Iroquois Community Club is requesting donations and they are looking at a fund raiser to help finish raising the money for an electronic billboard by Hiway 14. The Post has been approached for a donation. This will be discussed in March. We had a discussion in February, but the Post had not been approached directly until now.

A fund raiser has been set for April 5, 2008 at the school at 6:00PM for the sign project. They have about \$10,000 yet to raise. The following information was collected at the Iroquois blog site:

An electronic sign will be installed this spring along highway 14. Businesses, groups, and individuals will be able to use this sign to let others know what's happening in our town. The completion of this project will be possible only through the efforts of the entire community.

Fundraisers are being planned in March. The elementary students are currently collecting coins toward this effort. Any business, group, or individual wishing to contribute toward the sign may drop off their donation at the Farmers and Merchants State Bank.

This is a joint effort of the Horizons group, city of Iroquois, Community Club and many citizens of the town. Hopefully we'll be erecting the sign as soon as the weather moderates. It will be a two (2) line display facing both directions and will be an attractive light orange in color.

### COMMANDER'S THOUGHTS

March 15-17, 2008 is the 89<sup>th</sup> birthday of the American Legion. In addition to St Patrick's Day, we also celebrated Palm Sunday which begins the Easter Holy week. We as the American Legion have much to celebrate during March, and many of us do in some form or fashion.

Myself, I watched NASCAR and also stories about the life of Jesus, and listened to news reports of a preacher, a past marine, foul mouth the United States. Then listened to the media analysts speak on how one of our presidential candidates should or shouldn't handle his pastor. And all of this in no particular order of course.

As I listened to the National Anthem before the race, a tear came to my eye, not of sadness for everything else that was going on that day, but of pride, disbelief, anger, and thankfulness.

The pride comes from the fact that I served my country so that we may enjoy activities like the races, the freedom to speak our minds freely for or against anything or anyone we see fit.

The disbelief from hearing a US Veteran curse his country he served in church using the Lords name in vain. And this again is his right to free speech that we all served to protect with pride.

The anger because of a US Veteran who is angry with his government over who knows what, cursed the United States that one time long ago he served with pride.

And thankfulness for the men and women who now serve to protect this country in another no so popular war. Yet these men and women deserve our support and respect as that serve their country whether we agree with the political or racial or whatever reasons or not. They serve their country because they chose to and they are proud of their service although many disagree with policies or reasons.

My thought is simply this: I served my county faithfully as a volunteer and I am proud of that and I continue to serve through the American Legion and proud of it also.

Many of our members of the American Legion were draftees and many of them were involved with the Vietnam War which was in no way a popular period of our country's great history. And yet these members

joined The American Legion hoping to make a difference for themselves and the veterans to follow.

These men and women now continue their membership and do not participate in the activities and programs that are for themselves, their community, and even their children. Some are angry with other members or the leadership, some simply refuse to make time as their recreation is more important than their community of family.

And the question of the day is: Are you proud enough of your service to your country as a veteran, to continue to serve your fellow veterans, children, community, and yourselves?

Just some thoughts I had about the small amount of support the members of The American Legion actually provide to the organization.

Check these sites for Iroquois as they are updated often: [iroquois.communityblogs.us](http://iroquois.communityblogs.us) and [www.iroquoissd.com](http://www.iroquoissd.com) They, along with the school website, [www.iroquois.k12.sd.us](http://www.iroquois.k12.sd.us), have some good information that we all can use for our community.

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](http://www.americanlegionsd280.org) in PDF format.

Colin Royal, Commander

### The American Legion – It's Who We Are.

<p>Our country is not the only thing to which we owe our allegiance. It is also owed to justice and to humanity. Patriotism consists not in waving the flag, but in striving that our country shall be righteous as well as strong. ~James Bryce</p>
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