



Bensley-Rounds Post 280

Post Notes

Iroquois, South Dakota



Volume 13 Issue 7

Myron Zeeck, Publisher

July 29, 2008

Next Meeting – August 7, 2008
Time: 7:30 pm.
At Post Home, Iroquois, S.D.

“Aim High & Soar to New Heights”
2008 Membership: 105.61%
2009 Membership Goal: 108

Our prayers sympathies go out to the family of Jerry Biever who passed away recently. And also to the Rounds family in the death of Holly and David Lemke's young child.

Thanks to those who helped with the funeral for Jerry and with getting the family's request fulfilled.

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

Congratulations to our own Laci Blue, who married Matt Huls this past month in Huron. Our best wishes go with the newlyweds in their future together.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Membership is outstanding as we have surpassed 100 percent plus with 113 total members (this might be and all time high) paid for the 2008 year. We have 2 people who have yet to pay their dues. Please get them paid as soon as possible. The 2009 membership goal for the Post has been set at 108 members and memberships have already started to come in.

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 for 2008 & have gone up to \$30 for the 2009 year, 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 dues over and over. And most importantly, you get a voice in your veteran's rights and benefits.

POST HAPPENINGS

Updating the rifle issue, we discussed the quotes presented last month and voted to take the rifles to Gary's Gun Shop in Sioux Falls. They have gone down and returned. We will get the rifle sponsors notified on what they need to send in.

Another project that needs to be addressed is the leak that seems to start on top of the building and ends in the kitchen, this probably will be linked to the southwest corner of the roof that has lost some of the plywood to rotting. I have requested some quotes on

the repair of the roof from Harstad & Eining and Leichtenberg. I should have these for the meeting. Also there are more cracks in the blocks of the wall that we need to seal up.

If we wish to do the roof work ourselves, this will require a good amount of time on the roof and some good skills to blend the shingles into the rest without having to re-shingle the whole roof. Any way we look at this, it will not be a cheap repair.

I have applied for a community improvement grant from Wal-Mart for the Post at the urging of a few of our Post family members who work there. The amount of the grant request is \$1000. We'll see what happens.

The Sons of The American Legion Squadron 280 has opted to hold the next pancake breakfast to help with the roof repair.



Similar photo of the ATV being raffled.

Kingsbury County is selling tickets for a chance on an Art 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 has been set for November 11, 2008 at the Veterans Day program. There are plenty of tickets to go around so get yours now.

The Post has been approached by DeLores Royal, the head cook at Iroquois School about a breakfast to assist with the purchase of new food trays and a dishwasher upgrade for the school kitchen. The school will be installing a new dishwasher in the kitchen and the new trays will be delivered soon also. Many of the current food plates are deteriorating and breaking due to age and therefore need replacing. DeLores has also requested a community

improvement grant from Wal-Mart to help with this upgrade.

Also the student body of Iroquois High School has approached the Post for a breakfast to help raise money for a trip to Washington DC in the spring. They have been working and continue to raise money, and also have a matching funds request from Lutheran Thrivent Financial waiting to be applied.

The Redstone 4-H Club has requested a breakfast to raise funds for their projects and such.

Also, coming up in the future we have the Coats for Kids breakfast, membership night, Poultry Party, kids Halloween and Christmas Parties. We will need help with all of this as well as Color Guard details.

In the past, the Post has hosted a dinner for the school staff and faculty during National Education Week to meet them and to show our appreciation. This year with the major change of staff and faculty, this would be a great project to pick up again.

We did very well with the meal on Sports Day and thanks goes out to all those who helped. Also to the Auxiliary for their work on the wonderful pies. It was a great success. The feed back on the food was great this year and in some cases people got more than they could handle or want. This is good to hear!! Thanks to all!!

Please keep in mind, what ever a Post officer or member does is directly reflected on that member's Post, The American Legion, and its membership. This includes the bad along with the good and people tend to remember the bad more often. And Believe it or not, the Iroquois Bensley-Rounds Post 280 is a well known Post through out the Department as well as The American Legion. This is a **Post** accomplishment by the membership, not just the Commander or other officers. The Sons of The American Legion Squadron is a leader in the Detachment for taking initiative with different programs. You can be proud of these accomplishments because they are yours.

COMMANDER'S CORNER

Yep, running late and pushing the envelope again. After some things that were said directly to me, I overheard, and things I learned about what has transpired in the past with other members, I had to do some serious soul searching. With that done and decisions made and goals selected, here I am...

The Post Commander is ultimately responsible for the Post, it's membership, activities, and everything the Post is or does. I sent a letter out when I was first elected and thanked everyone for the opportunity and said that I was proud to hold the position. That has not changed and what I have experienced recently shook that belief a bit, but I have resolved some issues and I am more determined to make this Post work like it is supposed to and I will probably step on some toes, so be it.

It was said at the last meeting that this is supposed to be a team organization in reference to the meals and other activities, and yes it is. However, when we need a team to honor a member in passing, we can't even get a full team, "making do" just doesn't cut it. Or when we need to raise a little money for a project, our own members don't show up to help out or even participate; or just a simple task like placing Flags.



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.

Also in that letter, I asked for your support and attend a meeting or help out the Post two or three times a year. That still is the case and some have done so and many have not. Many of our long distance members do things in the community they live in and I know they are appreciated there as well as here.

The last four funerals I made calls for, calls were not returned, or "I have to work", or I'll be out of town or leaving town then, or some other excuse. Granted there were a couple legitimate reasons given as well as those members who have health, age and location to be considered. Only a few of those called said that they would try to get their schedule adjusted to be available.

Wow! These men and women earned these honors and we have a hard time getting it done. What happens when your time is called and no one shows up or is willing to take part in honoring you? Honoring a comrade is not a choice, it is **OUR** duty and we need to re-evaluate ourselves towards our duties and be more consistent with performing them. Now, I know that gas is expensive, which makes travel a bit outrageous, but isn't honoring our comrades important enough? You decide...

Also a Legionnaire said that they would rather not use the Sons of the American Legion for funeral honors because it was a "military thing". These male descendents chose to join the ranks to honor their ancestors and if we decide to emulate to them that they are not wanted, then we need to re-evaluate our position or role as members of the American Legion and its family.

On another note, appreciation is given to all

those who assist through out the year with the breakfasts and other activities, but one man always seems to get left out most of the time. Dale Kopplin, he is always diligent in making sure that the grill is cleaned after the meals and other chores around the Post are taken care of. I wish to take this time to say "Thank you!" to him and when you see him, show your appreciation.

The Youth Activity Fund (YAF); a great and wonderful addition to our Post and community, and for some, a thorn in our side or a wound that will not heal. What ever it may be to you, remember there is one man that did the foot work and got this thing started. Loren Nelson, he deserves our appreciation for his work on this program and it's success, with out him it wouldn't exist.

However, after his initial work he was greeted with a poor display of selfishness and misconception that was unnecessary. I personally wish to thank Loren for his work and I hope all of our members and community do the same. Also I wish to apologize for his disappointment in the Post membership and hope he will return as an active member of our Post.

Saying that, I have appointed a committee of our members to meet and discuss this program and to give the Post membership a final interpretation of what the program was designed to do. I do this because too many of us seem not to agree on what the program is for. This committee includes Dave Owens Sr, Loren Nelson, Jim Hulbert, Dale Kopplin and Bob Blue.

These members will be provided a copy of the paperwork, be allowed time to review it and then meet at their convenience and provide a determination or interpretation as to the nature and purpose of the YAF. They will provide a written report to the membership of their interpretation and that will be approved by the membership and followed when providing grants from the YAF. Until then we will function as we have in the past.

Another area is the rifles. Our rifles are not ours, they are on loan from the US Army and it is up to us to keep them in working condition and secured in accordance with the guidelines in the Officers Guide as directed by the US Army regulations. We have a nice cabinet for them that was made by some of our Post members. However, the hinges and hasp are installed as such that they may be disassembled or removed easily. There is no serial inventory with the Adjutant for the Post records and there is no serial listing with the rifles in the cabinet. As well as the key bearers should be listed and placed on the outside of the cabinet. Additionally, the cabinet is installed in an open location that is readily accessible by the public.

I brought these things up one time before in October 2007, as well as the need for the officers to do there assigned tasks according to the Officer's guide. They were shot down with the because it meant that there would be change and with intent of those who are in control should remain in control. This leads back

to the "team effort" statement. We are a team and we need to begin functioning as a team. And in reality, our only other choice, not being able to work as a team. Is to surrender our charter and liquidate the assets of the Post, much the same way that Carthage as reluctantly done recently.

We have a duty to the veterans, youth, community, state and nation. Isn't it about time to put away our personal differences and arguments and get back to work and do the work we need to do?

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION SQUADRON 280 NEWS

The pancake/French toast breakfast held on July 12&13th was a great success. Thank you to Annette Dunham, Carl Matter and Brent Matter for all the help and hard work. The next date will be August 10th,2008 and will be for the Post building fund as our contribution for the building upkeep. Come out for some great food!

The Squadron and the Junior Auxiliary had the concession stand for Sports day and for a poor Saturday turn out of the softball, we had an excellent weekend of sales. And the truck races were great and we hope to see them again in the future.

The next meeting for the SAL is September 4, 2008 at 6:30pm. The Squadron is not providing the Color Guard for the Memorial Service at the VA in Sioux Falls on August 16th. There is a new lady in charge of it and she has the Sioux Falls VFW in line to do it.

Check these sites for Iroquois as they are updated often: iroquois.communityblogs.us and www.iroquoissd.com They, along with the school website, 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 in PDF format.

Colin Royal, Commander

The American Legion – It's Who We Are.