



# Bensley-Rounds Post 280

## Post Notes

Iroquois, South Dakota



Volume 14 Issue 1

Myron Zeeck, Publisher

January 20, 2009

Next Meeting – February 5, 2009  
Time: 7:30 pm.  
At Post Home, Iroquois, S.D.

**“Aim High & Soar to New Heights”**  
**2009 Membership: 87.04%**

Sick Call: Joe Pederson, Bob Biever

### MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Membership is doing as we have 94 members paid for the 2009 year with a goal of 108.

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.

Also coming soon is the election of officers for the upcoming year. If you would like to serve as an officer please notify the nomination committee, or if you have a person in mind for an office, inform the committee.



Eric Moe, one of our members, grandson of Lee and Pat Raether, is currently serving with the US Air Force in Afghanistan until approximately December of 2009. If you wish to write him or send a card, contact Colin Royal for his address, as Eric likes to get mail from home. The Iroquois 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> grade class has also adopted him as their Soldier Pen Pal.



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 DAV Van project is continuing to accept donations towards a new van arriving in May 2009.

### POST HAPPENINGS

The next breakfast is February 8, 2008 and is for the Iroquois Student Trip to Washington DC. This trip is estimated to cost \$1400 plus airfare for each student. Please stop by and help if you can. The January breakfast did well for the food pantries and thanks to Annette Dunham, Bill and Joan Whites for your help. Upcoming breakfasts will be March 8, 2009 for the Museum to help replenish them after the holiday Season. And April 12, 2009 to be determined.

The time of the year has arrived for the selection of the Legionnaire of the Year. Keep in mind your nominations and bring them to the March meeting for selection.



## COMMANDER'S CORNER

First, I must apologize for the lack of a December newsletter. Things just ran together and I did not get it done.

As Legionnaires, it is up to us to show any and all veterans of any era the devotion and the respect they all have earned and deserve.

Also, our youth are an important commodity and we as a Post need to become more involved with the activities of our youth. Whether it is school or non-school related we need to be there for them, and let them know the American Legion supports them by wearing your hat or the American Legion Emblem in some form. This also applies to the community as a whole, because we, as a Post/Organization, in the community provide a great service to that community and it is seen every day.

PRIDE, a word, a feeling, a way to live, describes what I feel today as I watched the inauguration of President Barack Obama.

During the election campaign, doubts were voiced, names, some quite derogatory, were spouted, hopes were raised and dowsed. Yet through all of this the promises of the freedoms we experience and live each day were there. And today they are most evident.

A man who is of mixed race and a first generation born American citizen, whose father experienced some of the unfortunate treatment many were subjected to for many years. A man whose grandmother still lives in her far off African nation home, becomes president of the United States. A true living of the American Dream by a man who raised himself from the poor farmer roots of Kansas to the leader of the greatest country on the Earth.

This is what we as veterans of our great country served, fought and died for. No matter what we as citizens of the United States believe or think, it is our duty to serve and support the President of the United States with honor and dignity as veterans and as members of The American Legion.

As a member on the website, Facebook, I joined a few groups made up of American Legion members and officers. One of the issues that is a constant is the need to retain the young members of today. The American Legion has the stigma of being "grandpa's club" or as the place where grandpa goes to drink and visit.

The need to change this view is great, and the common thought is to make the Post a family friendly and desirable place for the young member and his/her family. Although I have ideas how to do this, many will not work due to our size of the active force. Others will require work and/or money and the latter is rather thin. What Ideas do you have on what we can do to keep our youth active and involved?

On the final stretch of being Post Commander for three years now, I have had many ups and downs and a great amount of satisfaction and fun. I have enjoyed the camaraderie and much more. Much has been learned and much more to learn, with that I'd like to say thanks for your support and hard work. I will not openly seek another term as commander, however, I will not turn down another nomination either.

## MIDWINTER CONFERENCE BANQUET KEYNOTE SPEAKER

(From UTN #2992 01-22-09)

The Keynote speaker for the 2009 MidWinter Joint Legion/ Auxiliary/SAL Banquet will be The American Legion National Commander David K. Rehbein of the Department of Iowa. A U.S. Army veteran of the Vietnam era, National Commander Rehbein served as an infantryman with the 4<sup>th</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> Armored Divisions in Germany from 1970 to 1971.



After leaving the Army, he attended Wayne State College and Iowa State University, graduating with a bachelor's degree in physics and a master's degree in metallurgy. Following graduation, he accepted a position as research metallurgist at the Ames Laboratory, U.S. Department of Energy, where he remained until his retirement in July of 2008.

## AMERICAN LEGION LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION

(From UTN #2992 01-22-09)

The South Dakota American Legion Department Legislative Committee has set the date for the 2009 South Dakota American Legion's Legislative Reception for Tuesday, February 10. The reception will be held at Pierre American Legion Post 8, located at the south end of Pierre Street.

The reception will start at 5:30 p.m. and will run until 9:00 p. m. Legion Family members are encouraged to come to Pierre on that date. Come to the capitol and visit your local legislators and extend a personal invitation to them to attend the reception that evening with Legion Family members from all across the state of South Dakota.

## SD AMERICAN LEGION 2009 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

(From UTN #2992 01-22-09)

The 2009 Legislative Agenda for The American Legion Department of South Dakota was set by The American Legion Legislative Committee is as follows:

Introduce legislation to separate the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs into two separate cabinet level departments, and create a Department of Veterans Affairs.

Re-introduce HB 1298 from the 2008 Legislative Session and try again to change the current law to make it a requirement that ALL discharges from the U.S. Armed Forces held by employees of the SD Division of Veteran Affairs MUST BE HONORABLE.

To ensure that there are no changes made in the current codified law that would revise the process by which the Director for the SD Division of Veterans Affairs is nominated and appointed. The South Dakota Veterans Commission continues to play a major role in that process.

Continue to ask for a study on the feasibility of establishing a veteran's cemetery and/or a veteran's home in Eastern South Dakota. Continue to press for more emphasis to be placed on veteran's preference in the hiring of persons within South Dakota state government.

To support legislation to increase the amount of the \$40 benefit that is currently available for the headstone setting fee on South Dakota veterans' graves to \$100.

An excellent dialog has developed between the major veteran service organizations with regard to the above legislative agenda and all major groups will be working for the same legislative issues.

It is imperative that our legislators are made aware of our concerns. Please call or e-mail them to better improve the success of our issues. We Need Your Help!!

## AUXILIARY UNIT 280 NEWS

Next meeting will be February 19, 2009 at 9:00PM at the Post home. The January meeting was cancelled due to weather.

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

The next meeting for the SAL is February 5, 2008 at 6:30pm.

The Detachment of South Dakota Sons of The American Legion is selling raffle tickets for the Detachment operation funds. A 32" LCD TV is being raffled this year. Tickets are \$5 or 3/\$10. See a SAL member for your tickets.

Testing for the Citizenship Star will be delayed until March. Essays (500-600 words) on citizenship from the applicants ages 13 and up will be due at the March meeting. The Sons ages 12 and under will take a ten question citizenship test for their star. Judges will be members of the parent Post.

Other activities coming up soon will be the Squadron party and the National Veterans Assistance Day.

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.**

**Sailor's Creed**

I am a United States Sailor.

I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States of America and I will obey the orders of those appointed over me.

I represent the fighting spirit of the Navy and all who have gone before me to defend freedom and democracy around the world.

I proudly serve my country's Navy combat team with Honor, Courage and Commitment .

I am committed to excellence and the fair treatment of all.



Our Deepest Sympathies go out to Bob Biever and family for the loss of his wife, Maxine.