



Bensley-Rounds Post 280

Post Notes

Iroquois, South Dakota



Volume 14 Issue 2

Myron Zeeck, Publisher

February 25, 2009

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

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Membership is doing as we have 103 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.



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 and for ongoing maintenance and future replacements.

POST HAPPENINGS

The next breakfast is March 8, 2008 and is for the Boys State Fees. Please stop by and help if you can. The February breakfast did well for the food pantries and thanks to Annette Dunham, and all the kids and staff from the school for your help. Upcoming breakfast will be 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.

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, which is Deb Jennings, Carl

"Aim High & Soar to New Heights"
2009 Membership: 95.37%

Matter and Clinton Walker, or if you have a person in mind for an office, inform the committee.

The Boys State committee is Colin Royal, Herb Rusche and Bill Whites. The date the selection is to take place is March 16, 2009 at 2:00 pm at the school.

This past meeting the membership approved a \$50 per student going to Washington DC from the Youth Activity Fund. There are as of the meeting, twelve students going on the trip. Mary Weinbar from the school stopped in and gave a brief presentation explaining what the trip was and what the kids would be doing for the five days they were gone.

Bob Blue is retiring from the SDNG after 30 years and we wish him well in his new life. A retirement party at the Plains in Huron on March 14, 2009. Social is at 5:00pm and dinner at 6:00pm.

The Auxiliary Unit 280 will be celebrating their 60 anniversary this March and we wish them well and many more years of faithful service. Two Charter Members are Marge Blue and Lorna Gubbins, congrats to these two ladies for their milestone.

The Department Convention will be in Huron on June 25-28, 2009. This is a great time to take in the experience with the Convention being local.

Iroquois Sports Days will be July 17-19, 2009 weekend and will be a great time. We will need help with the Saturday meal and also other activities. Please help if you can.

Memorial Day is May 25, 2009 and the speaker will hopefully be John Sweet. I am waiting on a final confirmation of this from John. Also that afternoon at 2:00pm, there will be a dedication of the Beadle County Veterans Memorial in Huron at the new park located at the corner of 3rd and Wisconsin.

YANKTON YOUTH TAKES ORATORY CHAMPIONSHIP

(From UTN 2994 February 18, 2009)

Meg Henrickson of Yankton emerged victorious as the top orator in the final round of competition of the South Dakota American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program "A Constitutional Speech Contest" in Chamberlain this past weekend. Meg is the daughter of Andy and Teresa Henrickson of Yankton.

Contestants were required to deliver a prepared oration of 8-10 minutes on the U. S. Constitution as their first oration. In turn, a constitutional topic was assigned to the contestants and a 3-5 minute extemporaneous oration was required on that topic. They were allowed five minutes of preparation time.

Each of the five contestants in the finals had previously won competition at the local, district and area levels of competition. Those eligible to compete at the finals this past weekend consisted of Henrickson, a senior at Yankton High School; Ryan Zobel, a senior at Arlington High School; Haley Hardie, a sophomore at Watertown High School; Candace

Checkout the Website at: www.americanlegionsd280.org

Shippy, a senior at Colome High School; and Jenae Logan, a senior at Gettysburg High School. Each contestant won a \$100 scholarship for winning their respective area competition.

Henrickson was awarded a championship trophy, a \$1,000 scholarship, and a plaque to be displayed in her high school's trophy case as the first place winner of the state contest. She now has the opportunity to represent The South Dakota American Legion in the National Contest which will be held April 17-19, 2009, at the Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis Conference Center and Hotel in Indianapolis, Indiana. Henrickson will receive an additional \$1,500 scholarship for participating in the first round of competition at national and an additional \$1,500 if she advances to the second round of national competition but does not make it into the final round. Scholarship awards possible in the national level competition are \$18,000 for first place, \$16,000 for second place, and \$14,000 for third place. Second place in the state finals contest was awarded to Haley Hardie of Watertown. Third place was awarded to Candace Shippy of Colome, Ryan Zobel was awarded the fourth place award, and Jenae Logan received the fifth place award. Second place received a \$500 scholarship; third place a \$300 scholarship and fourth and fifth place were each awarded an additional \$100 scholarship.

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. And for those who usually get their newsletter by mail, I had a bit of a snafu with my printer and the newsletter was messed up and some of you did not get one for January. Again I take responsibility and will try to get this one right.

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.

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.

What kind of Legionnaire are you? I do not ask this question lightly nor does it try to be sarcastic in any way. I ask this because it is an important question when it comes to the needs of the veterans, community and our youth.

As I ask this question, I like to look at our Post and view it as a model of what a Post should be. Nearly all of our Post members are all around members, ready to help where needed in their communities and schools and with veterans. I do see, as I look elsewhere, many members of the American Legion as one day Legionnaires, or they are Legionnaires only when they wear the hat and don't promote The American Legion at any other time. So keep up the good work and be proud to be a member of The American Legion as we are a great organization.

AUXILIARY UNIT 280 NEWS

Next meeting will be March 19, 2009 at 7:00PM at the Post home.

The Unit will celebrate its 60th birthday this month and a celebration is planned for March 28, 2009 at 7:00pm. More information to follow.

DeLores Royal gave a briefing on the happenings at the Mid-Winter Conference at Oacoma, SD on February 13-15, 2009.

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION SQUADRON 280 NEWS

The next meeting for the SAL is March 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 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.

The Creed of a United States Marine by MGen William H. Rupertus, USMC Retired

This is my rifle. There are many like it, but this one is mine. My rifle is my best friend. It is my life. I must master it as I must master my life.

My rifle, without me, is useless. Without my rifle, I am useless. I must fire my rifle true. I must shoot straighter than my enemy who is trying to kill me. I must shoot him before he shoots me. I will...

My rifle and myself know that what counts in this war is not the rounds we fire, the noise of our burst, nor the smoke we make. We know that it is the hits that count. We will hit...

My rifle is human, even as I, because it is my life. Thus, I will learn it as a brother. I will learn its weaknesses, its strength, its parts, its accessories, its sights and its barrel. I will ever guard it against the ravages of weather and damage as I will ever guard my legs, my arms, my eyes and my heart against damage. I will keep my rifle clean and ready. We will become part of each other. We will...

Before God, I swear this creed. My rifle and myself are the defenders of my country. We are the masters of our enemy. We are the saviors of my life.

So be it, until there is no enemy, but peace!