



# Bensley-Rounds Post 280

## Post Notes

Iroquois, South Dakota



Volume 16 Issue 1

Colin Royal, Publisher

January 24, 2011

Next Meeting – February 3, 2011  
Time: 7:00pm.  
At Post Home, Iroquois, S.D.

“Just Ask”

2011 Membership: 76.64%

Deaths: Wilmer Schoenfelder

“No duty is more urgent than that of returning thanks.” ~James Allen



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.

### MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Membership is doing well as we have 82 members paid for the 2011 year with a goal of 107. If you have not paid your dues please do so ASAP so we can get them in to the Department.

Remember, just ask the new member to join and ask the past member to renew their membership.

### AUXILIARY UNIT 280 NEWS

Next meeting will be February 17, 2011 at 7:00PM at the Post home.

Thank you to all who helped with the supper and those who supplied food for the Post members and making it a success.

I look forward to seeing all those who will be attending the Mid Winter Conference in Oacoma.

Remember to track your volunteer hours, donations and clip your coupons for the Mid Winter Conference.

“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

### COMMANDER’S CORNER

Next meeting is February 3, 2011 at the Post home at 7:00PM.

Thank you to all who helped with the pancake breakfast January 12th. And also to those who helped with Wilmer Schoenfelder’s funeral.

\$25 was approved for donation to the popcorn fund.

The Mid Winter Conference is set for February 11-13, 2011 at the Cedar Shores Resort at Oacoma, SD.

There will be a welcome home dinner for the DeSmet National Guard troops on February 5, 2011 in Lake Preston.

Any member who signs up two (2) new members, I will pay your next years dues. PUFs will get the cash. - **Deb Jennings, Commander**

### Check out these membership benefits:

- Auto Rental Discounts
- Computer Purchase Discounts
- Prescription Drug Discounts
- Insurance Programs

For more information, go to [www.legion.org/benefits](http://www.legion.org/benefits).

**FROM UTN #3044**

(Dated 1-19-11)

**The American Legion – Still Serving America.**

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- Feb 3 - Post Meeting
- Feb 11-13 – Mid Winter Conference @ Oacoma
- Feb 13 - Pancake Breakfast
- Feb 17 - Auxiliary Meeting
- Feb 23 - Kingsbury County Meeting @ Badger
- Mar 3 - Post Meeting
- Mar 13 - Pancake Breakfast
- Mar 17 - Auxiliary Meeting

### **FROM PIERRE**

With the 86th session of the South Dakota Legislature now in session, these are the bills that have been filed pertaining to veterans issues in the State of South Dakota.

**SB 51** - This bill would revise certain provisions relating to a previous appropriation for renovation of the nursing care building on the South Dakota Veterans’ Home campus and to declare an emergency. This bill would appropriate funds for the purposes of renovating the South Dakota Veterans Home in Hot Springs for up-grading life and safety issues through the design and construction of a new veterans’ home.

**SB 52** - This bill would authorize the South Dakota Building Authority and the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs to provide for the design, construction, and equipping of the

Veterans Home near Hot Springs and to declare an emergency.

**SB 53** - This bill revises certain provisions relating to the Veterans Commission and to veteran's rights, benefits, and services. This bill redefines a veteran and a war time veteran in South Dakota.

#### Mid Winter Schedule from UTN #3044

#### MIDWINTER CONFERENCE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

The 2011 South Dakota American Legion Mid Winter Conference will be held Friday-Sunday, February 11-13, 2011, at the Cedar Shore Resort in Oacoma. The schedule of events is outlined below.

#### Friday, February 11

10:00 a.m. – Administrative Committee Meeting – Missouri Winds Room

12:00 noon –Registration Desk Opens – Pre-Function Area

1:00 p.m. – Department Executive Committee Meeting – River Run / Wetlands Room

6:00 p.m. – No Host Cocktails – Pre-Function Area / Ballroom

7:00 p.m. – Legion/Auxiliary/SAL Banquet – Ballroom

#### Saturday, February 12

8:00 a.m. – Registration Desk Opens – Pre-Function Area

8:30 a.m. – Joint Opening Session – Hale / Oacoma Room  
Presentation of Colors

State Commander G. D. "Hoot" Gibson

Auxiliary President Sue Christensen,

SAL Detachment Commander Greg Lemieux

8:45 a.m. – National Vice Commander Russell J. Henry

9:05 a.m. – Auxiliary VA&R Briefing–Regina Whipple

9:15 a.m. – Auxiliary Children & Youth – Barb Vetter

9:25 a.m. – Bob Sutton, President of the South Dakota Community Foundation

9:45 a.m. – Janell Christensen, Suicide Prevention Coordinator for the Dept of Veterans Affairs

10:05 a.m. – Jessie Kuechenmeister, Executive Director of CASA ( Court Appointed Special Advocate)

10:30 a.m. – Legion/Auxiliary/SAL to separate meetings

10:45 a.m. – BREAKOUT SESSIONS:

Post Service Officer Session, Glass

Americanism Session, Howe Room

Legion Riders Session, Hale/Oacoma

Membership Session, Wheeler Room

12:00 p.m. –Noon Lunch Break (On Your Own)

1:00 p.m. – BREAKOUT SESSIONS:

Legion Riders Session, Hale/Oacoma

Adjutants Session, Glass Room

Americanism Session, Howe Room

Membership Session, Wheeler Room

2:15 p.m. –All Assemble in Convention Hall, Hale/Oacoma

2:20 p.m. – NEC Paul Evenson Remarks.

2:35 p.m. –Alt. NEC Phil Anderson Remarks.

2:45 p.m. – Department Legislative Committee Chairman Gerald Goetzinger

3:00 p.m. – Honor Flight Representative

3:15 p.m. – 2010 American Legion College Graduate Eliann Carr

3:30 p.m. – Department Membership Chairman Rick MacDonald, Membership Report, Membership

Awards & Turn-In

3:50 a.m. – Dept. VAVS Committee Chairman Ollie Redden  
VAVS Popcorn Fund Turn-In

4:00 p.m. – South Dakota American Legion Foundation

Meeting

6:00 p.m. – Go-Getters Reception – Oacoma Community Center

6:30 p.m. – Go-Getters Smorgasbord – Community Center

8:00 p.m. – Hospitality Rooms

**Sunday, February 13**

8:30 a.m. – Non-Denominational Service, Hale/Oacoma

10:30 a.m. –Department Finals American Legion High

School Oratorical Scholarship, Hale/Oacoma

"Constitutional Speech Contest"

**CAUTION** – *I have visited the site for the following organization, It does not appear to be legitimate so I have chosen to include this warning I received from the SAL National Liaison via email. The validity of the organization or the VA warning cannot be verified at this time. ~ Colin Royal*

#### WARNING TO VETERANS

Forwarded by Kevin Secor, VSO Liaison, Office of the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

An organization called Veterans Affairs Services (VAS) is providing benefit and general information on VA and gathering personal information on veterans. This organization is not affiliated with VA in any way

[Websites with the name "vaservices" immediately after the "www" ARE NOT part of the Department of Veterans Affairs, the US Government agency. Do not go to them or if approached or called, do not offer them any information concerning yourself or data on other veterans. Keep in mind that the real VA website ends in .gov. Also, be aware that the Department of Veterans Affairs does not randomly call veterans, nor does it ask veterans for information which it does not already have--like Social Security Numbers. In particular, if you have not dealt with the VA previously--and in person--and all of a sudden, you receive a call from someone saying they are with the VA or something similar sounding, hang up the phone. Also, do not respond to emails which suggest that they are from the VA. The VA never conducts official business nor asks for personal information by email. Mike]

VAS may be gaining access to military personnel through their close resemblance to the VA name and seal. Our Legal Counsel has requested that we coordinate with DoD to inform military installations, particularly mobilization sites, of this group and their lack of affiliation or endorsement by VA to provide any services.

In addition, GC requests that if you have any examples of VAS acts that violate chapter 59 of Title 38 United States Code, such as VAS employees assisting veterans in the preparation and presentation of claims for benefits, please pass any additional information to Mr. Daugherty at the address below.

Michael G. Daugherty  
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Department of Veterans Affairs  
Office of General Counsel (022G2)  
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Washington, DC 20420