



Bensley-Rounds Post 280

Post Notes

Iroquois, South Dakota



Volume 20 Issue 1

Colin Royal, Editor, Member SDALPA, NALPA

January 2015

Next Meeting – January 8, 2015
Time: 7:00pm
At the Post Home, Iroquois, S.D.

EDITOR'S NOTE: There is no December 2014 newsletter.

"Though force can protect in emergency, only justice, fairness, consideration and co-operation can finally lead men to the dawn of eternal peace." ~Dwight D. Eisenhower

Attention Legionnaires who reside in or near Iroquois:

A volunteer is needed to tend to the Post flag when it is to be placed to half-staff as needed and returned to full-staff as required.

Dale Kopplin has been tending to this task and has requested that the duty be assumed by a younger Post member.

Dale has faithfully tended to this duty for many years and it has been greatly appreciated. Thank you Dale for your service.

"Ask & Believe"
2015 Membership: 71.15%

members, this would be a good idea as future dues increases would not affect your PUFL, and your dues would be paid for life.

We will be hosting the Kingsbury County meeting on February 25, 2015 at 7:30PM. We will be serving a spaghetti supper following the meeting. All are welcome.

If you haven't paid your 2015 dues, please do so ASAP. Your voice is needed to protect your benefits that you EARNED through your service.



The Post website has a new address, it is www.sdalpost280.org. The old address will continue to work for a while yet.

In honor of Deb Jennings, I will carry on with his challenge through the remainder of his tenure. Assuming command of the Post is easy, filling Deb's shoes can never be achieved.

Any member who signs up two (2) new members, I will pay your next year's dues. PUFLs will get the cash. ~ Colin Royal, Commander

The next Kingsbury County meeting will be held December 3, 2014 at Erwin at 7:30PM.



HAPPY NEW YEAR

May you have the happiest, safest, and healthiest year ahead. Happy New Year!

COMMANDER'S CORNER

Next meeting is January 8, 2015 at the Post home at 7:00PM. Date was changed due the New Year's holiday.

Thank you to those who assisted with the breakfast on December 14th. The next breakfast will be on January 11, 2015 for the Boy Scout trip to Japan.

It was discussed at a National finance meeting that the Paid Up For Life (PUFL) fees may go up in the near future. If you would like to sign up for the PUFL, go online and do it as soon as you can. For the younger



Our deepest sympathies go out the family of our Commander, Delbert 'Deb' Jennings. Rest in Peace and Carry On, Commander.



Our deepest sympathies go out to the family of Ernest 'Ernie' C. Geyer. Ernie was a member of the Bancroft community.

Checkout the Website at: www.sdalpost280.org

*Bensley-Rounds
Post 280 TAPS*

The Post is now on Facebook, check out www.facebook.com/posttwoeighty and follow or friend us.



"All, too, will bear in mind this sacred principle, that though the will of the majority is in all cases to prevail, that will to be rightful must be reasonable; that the minority possess their equal rights, which equal law must protect, and to violate would be oppression."
~Thomas Jefferson

MIDWINTER BANQUET TICKETS

(From UTN 3147 Dated 12/31/14)

Tickets for the MidWinter Conference Joint Banquet will be by advance sale only. The Joint Banquet will be held Friday, February 6, 2015, at 7:00 p.m. The event will be preceded by a no-host cock-tail hour commencing at 6:00 p.m. The menu will consist of bacon wrapped pork chop, potato, vegetable, salad with dressing, dinner roll and coffee & ice water.

Tickets are \$25.00 each and can be obtained by sending \$25.00 per ticket requested to Watertown American Legion Post 17, PO Box 292, Watertown, South Dakota 57201.

POST HISTORY NEEDED

The American Legion is compiling a history for its upcoming 100th Birthday. They have asked that each Post compile its history to be shared with all. If you have anything to contribute, please share and send it to Charemon Dunham at dunhamc1@santel.net. If you need to mail the information, she'll give you her address at that time.

Iroquois had a Post after World War I and was disbanded sometime in the early part of World War II or before. If you have any information for this Post, please forward that also. Thank you.

"I am a firm believer in the people. If given the truth, they can be depended upon to meet any national crises. The great point is to bring them the real facts."
~ Abraham Lincoln

UPCOMING EVENTS

Jan 1 – New Year's Day
Jan 8 – Post Meeting
Jan 10 – SAL Chili & Soup Feed
Jan 11 – Breakfast
Jan 15 – Auxiliary Meeting
Jan 19 – Martin Luther King Day
Jan 28 – Kingsbury Meeting @ Hetland
Feb 1 – Four Chaplains Sunday
Feb 5 – Post Meeting
Feb 6-8 – Mid-Winter @ Watertown
Feb 14 – Valentine's Day
Feb 15 - Breakfast
Feb 16 – Presidents Day
Feb 18 – Ash Wednesday
Feb 19 – Auxiliary Meeting
Feb 25 – Kingsbury Meeting @ Iroquois

Mar 5 – Post Meeting
Mar 15 – American Legion Birthday
Mar 17 – St Patrick's Day
Mar 19 – Auxiliary Meeting
Mar 25 – Kingsbury Meeting at Lake Preston
Mar 29 – Palm Sunday

LEE GREENWOOD CONCERT IN SIOUX FALLS

(From UTN 3146 Dated 12/17/14)

Lee Greenwood will be performing for the Valentines for Veterans Concert February 21, 2015 at 3:00 p.m. at the Washington Pavilion in Sioux Falls. This is the third annual Valentines for Veterans concert sponsored by the Sioux Falls VA Health Care System. Each veteran may receive up to four complimentary tickets for the concert. Tickets will be available beginning January 20th from Voluntary Service at the Sioux Falls VA Medical Center.

An informational veterans benefits fair will precede the concert from 1:00-3:00 p.m. All veterans are encouraged to come and learn more about your VA benefits.

AUXILIARY UNIT 280 NEWS

The next meeting is January 15, 2015 at 5:00PM at the Marge Blue's home, weather permitting as with all meetings throughout the winter months.

"Here in America we are descended in blood and in spirit from revolutionists and rebels - men and women who dare to dissent from accepted doctrine. As their heirs, may we never confuse honest dissent with disloyal subversion." ~ Dwight D. Eisenhower

SAL SQUADRON 280 NEWS

Come join us on Saturday, January 10, 2015 for our 2nd annual Chili Feed. There will be homemade chili and also homemade chicken noodle soup. Freewill donation goes toward the Child Welfare Foundation. We will begin serving at 5:30PM, all are welcome. Serving will end at 7:30PM or when food runs out.

Dues are now due for the 2015 year; please get them in as soon as possible. Dues are still only \$10.00. Remember, all male descendants (including adopted and stepsons) of a Legion member are eligible to belong to the Sons of The American Legion regardless of age.

And Legion members who are descendants of veterans are eligible also. The SAL members get the same discounts as the Legion.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Aug. 9, 1921: The Legion's efforts result in the creation of the U.S. Veterans Bureau, forerunner of the Veterans Administration.
- June 1, 1938: The final round of the Legion's first annual National High School Oratorical Contest is conducted in Norman, Okla.
- Aug. 26, 1982: The Legion presents a \$1 million check to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund for construction of the Wall in Washington,

becoming the largest single contributor to the project.

- June 30, 2008: President George W. Bush signs into law the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act, a next-generation GI Bill strongly supported by the Legion. The bill renews the federal government's commitment to veterans by providing them with substantially better education benefits. The Post-9/11 GI Bill took effect Aug. 1, 2009, and sent an unprecedented number of veterans to college.

Please, if your address changes, notify the Post so we get the newsletter and membership information to you in a timely fashion. Thank You!

"I hope we shall crush in its birth the aristocracy of our monied corporations which dare already to challenge our government to a trial by strength, and bid defiance to the laws of our country." ~ Thomas Jefferson

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

We have 74 of 104 members renewed for the 2015 year.

Our membership goal for the 2015 year has gone up to 104 members. This means we will need to get a number of new members and retain current members to meet our new goal. With your help, we can and will do this. Dues remain at \$35 for the 2015 year.

A selling point to membership in the Legion, Auxiliary and the SAL, is the American Legion Riders. To be eligible for the Riders, the person must be a member of the Legion, Auxiliary, or the SAL.

Every membership is a voice behind the National Commander, when he goes head to head with those in Washington DC. Remind them that their voice helps protect and defend theirs, yours, and our benefits we EARNED through our service.

Renewals may also be done online at <http://www.legion.org/renew>. The Department will be notified within 24-48 hours normally and you may also set up a recurring renewal if you like. This does not include Auxiliary or SAL.

Remember; just ask the new members to join and ask the past members to renew their membership and Just Believe, Ask and Together we can do it.

"A man is not finished when he is defeated. He is finished when he quits." ~ Richard Nixon

MESSAGE FROM THE NATIONAL COMMANDER

Dear Legion Family Members and Friends,

As a new year soon dawns, individuals and organizations will look back and reflect on the highlights of the past 12 months. For individuals, those highlights might be the birth of a child or grandchild, a marriage, promotion or career change.

I hope this year has brought you and your family many moments to cherish for years to come. For our organization, it truly has been a remarkable and historic

year of advocacy for those who have served our nation in uniform.

Most notably, The American Legion took the lead nationally when the VA crisis erupted last April. We stood up for the veterans we represent, and the values we stand for, when we called for reforms, including leadership changes at the highest levels of VA. We took that bold step in order to improve access to care, help untangle the benefits backlog and restore trust between veterans and VA.

We did not sit on the sidelines as details of VA mismanagement cropped up at facilities across the nation. The American Legion instituted Veterans Crisis Command Centers (VCCCs) in communities hardest hit by VA errors. At these centers, more than 3,000 veterans received personal assistance with their benefits claims, overdue appointments and many other issues. VA staff joined us in these events, seeing firsthand what it means to tackle a national problem at the local level, face to face.

Beyond our leadership on the VA issue, The American Legion has other success stories from 2014. Among them:

When Congress approved legislation making future cuts to cost-of-living adjustments (COLA) for military retirees, The American Legion launched an aggressive campaign to have those cuts repealed. U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham said the Legion's efforts played a significant role in that move.

The American Legion also focused support on the needs of the post 9/11 generation of veterans. We have helped secure credentialing changes in all 50 states, which will assist new veterans as they transition into careers ranging from emergency medicine to truck driving.

Legionnaires provided comfort, relief and aid to thousands of veterans, military families and communities through our various programs. Your donations helped provide financial boosts to those in need, rehabilitation equipment for wounded service members and scholarship funds for children who lost active-duty military parents in the war on terrorism. Among the success stories: the Legion Riders raised \$1 million for the Legacy Scholarship Fund.

There are many reasons to look ahead to 2015 with an expectation of continued progress and impact. Our organization will conduct Veterans Benefit Centers next year on a monthly basis to continue providing boots on the ground, active engagement with VA staff and others, in communities where veterans are still having trouble receiving the assistance they earned through honorable military service.

We will continue to comfort injured service members, provide assistance to families in need, and distribute aid to those recovering from natural disasters. Please consider a tax-deductible donation to support of the Legion program of your choice at this web page.

I wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

For God and Country, Mike Helm, National Commander