**Family First**

By Courtney VanZanten, DSO

“Welcome to Herreid. Your Last Stop in South Dakota.”

There’s few welcome signs that speak the truth more than the one entering Herreid. Located 8 miles from the North Dakota border, it’s a haul from nearly every direction. The town of 417 is relatively isolated, but it is immediately welcoming.

The American Legion Family has a strong presence from the get-go. Coming in from the south, The Veterans Memorial Park, where the Family logos are featured prominently on the entrance. From the north, the Campbell County Veterans Memorial in front of the high school. The post itself sits immediately on the entrance. From the north, it’s a haul from nearly every direction. The truth more than the one entering Herreid.

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The American Legion Family has a strong presence from the get-go. Coming in from the south, The Veterans Memorial Park, where the Family logos are featured prominently on the entrance. From the north, the Campbell County Veterans Memorial in front of the high school. The post itself sits downtown, right in the center of it all.

Being as remote as they are, the folks in Herreid have have come to have a certain self-reliance. Perhaps this helps to explain how the American Legion Family has grown so fantastically here; both the Auxiliary and the Sons outnumber the Legion significantly. Membership for the Legion this year is 36, with the Auxiliary and Sons sitting at 56 and 78, respectively.

Even at first glance, it’s easy to see that this is a highly effective team. The mission is clear, centered around helping and honoring veterans; communication is open; and collaboration is key. “We wouldn’t be able to do half of what we do if it weren’t for the communication and scheduling to bring the memorial visit to fruition. Its taken not only teamwork, but backing from the people of Herreid as well. “Our community is very supportive,” said Sons Commander Lance Vander Vorst, “We’re very fortunate.”

**When the Walls Talk...**

While visiting post homes, it’s inevitable to be drawn to the pictures and plaques on the walls. Every so often, the walls tell a story that’s hard to forget.

To the upper right, the black and white photograph depicts the funeral of Edward H. Goehring, a WWII Gold Star soldier, and the first funeral that the Herreid post performed. Below, the funeral of Eddie Goehring, a 43-year member of Post #170 and Vietnam Veteran. Born two years after his older brother’s death, Eddie was named after his departed brother. They are now buried near each other at the Fairview Cemetery in Herreid.

**Chip Ganassi Racing, The American Legion Announce Multi-Year NTT INDYCAR SERIES Relationship**

Chip Ganassi Racing (CGR) announced today a multi-year agreement with the nation’s largest veterans service organization, The American Legion, as a sponsor of the No. 48 Honda in the NTT INDYCAR SERIES represented by a combination of Seven-Time NASCAR Cup Series Champion Jimmie Johnson (street and road courses) and former Indianapolis 500 Winner and Series Champion Tony Kanaan (ovals).

“We’re excited about this new relationship with The American Legion as it allows us to further the sponsor-success program on the No. 48 team with Jimmie and Tony, while also representing a very important relationship with an organization dedicated to supporting veterans,” said Chip Ganassi, team owner of Chip Ganassi Racing. “Jimmie in particular has a long-standing appreciation for the Post 5 veterans; so it was just another reason why partnering with The American Legion on his debut in the NTT INDYCAR SERIES made sense.”

The American Legion will be featured prominently on Johnson’s No. 48 Honda during every race in the 2021 and 2022 NTT INDYCAR SERIES. The organization will also be the primary paint scheme for two races in 2021, including, “The Greatest Spectacle in Racing” the Indianapolis 500 on Memorial Day weekend. Kanaan, winner of the 2013 Indianapolis 500, will be behind the wheel for those races.

“This is truly a win-win for all involved,” said James W. “Bill” Oxford, national commander of The American Legion. “Working with Chip Ganassi Racing allows The American Legion to showcase how it strengthens America every day through its programs, advocacy and support of veterans and their families. We’re looking forward to bringing that message and our mission to race fans across the country.”

The announcement comes on GivingTuesday, a day of global giving designed to help change communities and the world. Donors can visit www.legion.org/48 to make a gift and help celebrate this new relationship and veterans across the country.

Johnson, who has family members who have served in the military, will make a $10,000 donation to The American Legion. Johnson hopes his donation will motivate fans and the public to support veterans by donating $48 to The American Legion. The $48 pays homage to the number 48 car that he and Kanaan will drive.

“Our family knows firsthand how important it is to recognize our veterans,” said Johnson, who’s grandfathers and brother-in-law served in the military. “It’s exciting to be partnering with The American Legion to be able to show our appreciation to veterans and to continue to raise public awareness and support for this special organization. Giving Tuesday is a great day to announce this partnership and a way for fans to show their appreciation for our veterans.”
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Representative Dusty Johnson (R-SD), 1508 Longworth HOB
From the Adjutant
Kevin Hempel
Department Adjutant

We had successful District fall meetings and I was encouraged by the number of Legionnaires who took the time to attend despite the COVID issues we are currently facing. The question that now seems to be on everyone’s mind is will we hold our annual MidWinter Conference which is scheduled at Cedar Shores in Oacoma February 19-21.

We have been in contact with the facility and they are standing by to support the conference, keeping COVID and social distancing in mind. The Chamberlain Post, who is the host for the conference, has been working on the menu and cost for the joint banquet.

The Training Committee is planning another round of great training. There are a number of committees who meet during the conference and have business to attend to. With that said, at this point the conference is still a go, however we will continue to monitor COVID. With all things related to COVID, we will see some changes made to the way we conduct business.

Other items of interest I wanted to point out in this month’s column:

1. MyLegion. National has announced the current version of MyLegion will be replaced by a new system. First, all current logins will no longer work after December 16th. The new system is supposed to be online December 21st. Individuals will need to get a new login and it must be associated with an email address on file with MyLegion. We have been informed by National there will be a number of training videos forthcoming on the new system. I just finished watching a 10-minute video on what to expect and the requirements to sign in for the first time. I highly recommend everyone who will be using MyLegion to watch this first video and keep an eye open for the next ones. You can find the video by going to Legion.org then go to the search feature on the upper right and type in Training. Follow the link to MyLegion training and the video should be there. Or you can type the following into your web browser: https://www.legion.org/training/mylegion.

2. Oratory Contests. The Posts should be working with the schools to advertise the program and then have their local competitions completed by January 10th with their winners competing at the District competition. You will need to check with your District on their schedule.

3. Training Tuesdays. National has started a series of online training events aimed at Post Leadership. It will be the last Tuesday of every month at 6 p.m. central time. To access the training, go to Legion.org and find the training section or again, go to the Search area and type in Training Tuesdays.

4. VA Christmas Parties. Each year the Auxiliary hosts a Christmas party for veterans in the various VA hospitals over the Christmas Holidays. Legion members are encouraged to participate. However, COVID has put the brakes on visitors to the VA. The VA will still host the parties with the staff helping however they could use your support in the form of financial donations to bring some holiday cheer to the patients. If you feel you can support this event, you can send checks to the Volunteer Services point of contact at the various hospitals or you can send a donation to HQ with a note as to which hospital you would like to support and we will ensure it get to the proper location.

That is enough for this issue’s column. I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and happy holidays. Stay safe and don’t forget to check on our veteran buddies.

For God & Country,
Kevin Hempel
Department Adjutant

South Dakota American Legion Foundation Update

The South Dakota American Legion Foundation thanks the following for their incredible contributions:

Howard American Legion Post #145: $5000.00 (Pictured above) Garretson American Legion Post #23: $5000.00 Leo King: $250.00

Your support of the Foundation can impact the South Dakota American Legion for generations. Amplify your generosity by donating today: https://www.sdleighton.org/foundation/ or https://sdcommunityfoundation.org/for-advisors-existing-funds/south-dakota-american-legion-foundation

Firefighter/EMT & Law Enforcement of the Year Award Nominations Due to Districts

We all have them: the local heroes who, day in and day out, work to keep our communities safe. The American Legion recognizes these individuals through the Firefighter/EMT, and Law Enforcement Officer of the Year awards. While it goes without saying that the Department wants Posts to recognize local heroes, why they do that, these awards also serve an important secondary purpose: It is firmly believed these awards serve to promote public trust and support of our law enforcement and firefighting agencies, which is more critical now than ever.

Firefighter of the Year:

The Firefighter of the Year Award to a firefighter who has exceeded the requirements expected of his or her position and has performed with a high degree of professional service and professional achievement. The award, which takes into account heroic acts, will be given annually at the Department’s Adjutant and National Convention.

Nominees must:

A: be a citizen of the United States, male or female; and
B: be a career or volunteer firefighter.

Military firefighters are eligible for participation in this award provided they are state firefighter certified.

Nominations must be submitted to the Department by December 31st. It is recommended that Posts complete and forward their nominations in November. The application for Department Firefighter/EMT of the Year is the same as National.

Find the application here: https://www.legion.org/security/firefighter

Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award:

Each year, The American Legion gives its National Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award to a well-rounded law enforcement officer who has exceeded the duty requirements expected of his or her position and has performed with a high degree of professional service and professional achievement. It is firmly believed these awards serve to promote public trust and support of our law enforcement and rendering agencies, which is more critical now than ever.

Nominations must:

A: be a U.S. citizen and living, active, full-time and paid, sworn law enforcement certified police (FBI, Secret Service agent, U.S. Marshall, National Park Police, U.S. Capitol Police, etc.) or as a sworn federal law enforcement officer (FBI, Secret Service agent, U.S. Marshall, National Park Police, U.S. Capitol Police, etc.).

B: be assigned to or fully recognized by municipal, county, district or state law enforcement agency.

C: be assigned to or fully recognized by a sworn police officer who has exceeded the duty requirements expected of his or her position and has performed with a high degree of professional service and professional achievement.

Nominees must be U.S. citizens and living, active, full-time and paid, sworn law enforcement officers entrusted with full authority and the powers of arrest. Posthumous awards will be acceptable only if the nominee’s death has occurred after the department’s selection.

Nominees must apply and be approved by their local or state or federal department for consideration.

Nominations must be submitted to the Department by December 31st. It is recommended that Posts complete and forward their nominations in November. The application for Department Law Enforcement Officer of the Year is the same as National.

Find the application here: https://www.legion.org/security/officeraward

DECEMBER 2020

3
Sioux Nation Centennial Legion Post's Fledgling ALR
Chapter Making a Difference

The American Legion—Located on the Rosebud Indian Reservation in South Dakota, Chauncey Eagle Horn Post 125 was chartered in December 1919 and is one of the oldest Native American Legion posts in the organization. Its namesake was assigned to the 42nd Infantry Division, nicknamed the “Rainbow” Division, and was killed in action on July 28, 1918, in the Battle of Chateau Thierry in France. He was the first man to be killed in action from any Great Sioux Nation tribe.

Nearly 98 years later, American Legion Riders Chapter 125 was chartered with a primary mission of providing proper final respects to veterans in the area who passed away. The chapter regularly takes part in funeral escorts and flag lines, while also taking part in parades, community events and ceremonies while providing support for military families and Department of Veterans Affairs’ facilities.

The chapter was formed shortly after some veterans living in the area met up with American Legion Riders from Hot Springs, S.D., who were providing an escort for a Korean War prisoner of war whose remains had been identified and were returned to his family in Rosebud.

“(The Hot Springs Riders) told us that we should start something around here,” said Carole Greg, a U.S. Army veteran who doubles as Post 125 commander and Chapter 125 director. “That’s when six of us got together, joined the Legion and started (Chapter 125).”

Chapter 125’s efforts recently included teaming up with Tree of Life Ministries, a nonprofit in Mission, S.D., that provides food, clothing and shelter to those in need on the reservation. Greg was contacted by Tree of Life Director Linda Garriott, who shared that the ministry was getting a load of mattresses—approximately 16 pallets full—and wanted to distribute them to veterans.

Chapter 125 put the word out Oct. 28 and two days later had volunteers on hand in the Tree of Life parking lot to pass out nearly 100 twin-sized Tempur-Pedic mattresses to local veterans. In order to maintain social distancing and safety protocols, all recipients stayed in their vehicles and wore masks. Chapter 125’s Riders loaded the mattresses into their vehicles, distributing all but a handful of the mattresses—one per veteran—in less than two hours.

Being able to facilitate distributing the mattresses “was very valuable,” Greg said. “It’s a low-income area on the reservation, very low income. And the unemployment rate is really high, so anything like this helps out.”

Being able to get the mattresses to veterans in need “feels good,” Gregg said, “especially when you know people are struggling with COVID or age, and they can’t work and their incomes’ low, you can give them something to where at least they can sleep comfortably.”

Sisseton Post Standing Proudly

Submitted by Matt Lagerstrom, District 5 Commander

Sitting in the Northeast Corner of South Dakota, Sisseton acts as a regional trade hub bringing people from around the area who seek out their daily necessities of life and the services of “life in town.” Otto-Quande-Renville Post #50 of Sisseton seeks to be one of the key stops on those traveler’s journey through town, and by all accounts, they are working hard to meet the high goals of The American Legion to take care of Veterans, their families, and making their community a better place to live.

Despite the slowdown of life due to The Virus, the Post has been busy working with their community to make it a better place to live this summer. The community recently decided to redo a major portion of Highway 10 through town, and Post 50 was integral into their plans as just outside the Post Home, a new traffic circle was installed.

The Post worked with city planners and the construction company to assure that business traffic in and out of the restaurant which the Post hosts would not be impeded, and while construction was ongoing, the Post worked to improve their grounds by emplacing new fencing and landscaping around their M60 Patton tank that proudly guards the Post Home.

The Post is dedicated to care of the Sisseton Community Cemetery, and over the summer has worked with the cemetery board on repairing and resetting 18 headstones in the cemetery as well as innumerable repairs to Veteran grave markers.

The Post normally sponsors a local Legion Baseball team, however, The Virus proved to be too much for the sponsorship of their cherished program, but it was not to be a complete loss. Instead, the Post took advantage of the off-season and in partnership with the city took on a project to demolish the old concession stand which the Post operates during games, and for the 2021 season a new ballfield and concession stand will welcome all who come to enjoy a staple of summer life in the community.

The Post works with a local Boy Scout Troop, and when the boys couldn’t go to a formal Summer Camp experience this summer, they packed their bags and the Post helped sponsor their move a few miles west of town to Roy Lake State Park, where the boys were able to enjoy a week outside doing what they are supposed to be doing as boys learning how to be responsible adults.

Finally, Post 50 has an Honor Guard team which keeps their membership plenty busy when they aren’t already doing something. Working with local funeral homes for performing Funeral Honors, presenting flags during community celebrations, and local athletic events keeps their members busy almost every weekend of the year.

While many Posts chose to maintain a low profile during the National Catastrophe of The Virus, Sissetton chose to never forget their mission, and their members faced the challenge of community service with a great deal of patriotism and pride.

Members of the ALR Chapter #125 stand next to a pallet of mattresses ready for distribution. The Chapter was featured by National HQ for their community service. See it online here: https://www.legion.org/riders/251145/sioux-nation-centennial-legion-posts-fledging-air-chapter-making-difference

Members of the Post relax after building a fence around the M60 Patton Tank which guards the City of Sisseton this June 2020 (Picture by Post Commander Calvin Hove)

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Members of the Post relax after building a fence around the M60 Patton Tank which guards the City of Sisseton this June 2020 (Picture by Post Commander Calvin Hove)
During the District 1 Veterans Day Program, the focus revolved around keeping alive the stories of our veterans. Veterans have lots of stories, not solely gospel stories. There are a variety of stories to allow some of the more awful effects which it has imposed on our lives. Our Posts are still looking up on our older Veterans who for very good reason have become home-bound through Buddy-Checks and simply being good neighbors. Buddy-Checks and simply being good neighbors. Our Posts are still active working with community organizations and our schools to assure the values which our Nation's Veterans sacrificed much from their lives to keep alive including the most important—our desire to live in a nation where the truth of the classes and the masses does not become the rule of law.

Many Posts supported Veterans Day programs, whether they were in a local school, at the City Veterans Memorial, or in the case of Sisseton's Post in a sixty-seven vehicle parade with over 150 participants that wound its way through more than four miles of the city before making its way to support a Funeral Honor Guard for one of their local Veterans.

What a year it has been. I know we all want to get past 2020 and hopefully into a recovery with a care for COVID. I am getting a very slow start to my duties and I know so well that I have big shoes to fill, as Doug Fellman did an outstanding job as District 6 Commander. As District 6 Commander, I have started to contact each Post with hopes of visiting each soon. Normally, Posts this time of year would be hosting Turkey Bingos and Pancake Feeds, much less meeting, but COVID has struck a special calendar yet again.

With so many of our communities being hit hard with COVID, I find it incredibly important to follow up on our fellow Veterans with the Buddy Checks. Often times, our Veterans don't need material items, but a friendly voice on the phone with a genuine concern on their well-being some who actually cares can make a difference. We have a long road ahead of us with this winter approaching, but together, we can be tough and get through this. I will continue to make my phone calls to the Posts. I cannot stress enough that if you need to do something for your Post to get in touch with me. Like most soldiers, I have a stubborn and innate desire to help my fellow veterans, and I am truly a phone call away. It has been my pleasure to work with you and I am looking forward to our future.

Hello fellow Legionnaires!

My name is Jennifer VanRoekel, and I am the Commander of District 8. I live in Parker, but am part of the Marion American Legion Post. I am married to my husband Chris and we have 5 children. Ande, 24, Trinity, 11, as well as one grandchild. I live in Parker, but am part of the Marion American Legion Post. I am married to my husband Chris and we have 5 children: Ande 27, Kyle 26, Ana 26, as well as one grandchild. I am married to my husband Chris and we have 5 children: Ande 27, Kyle 26, Ana 26, and one grandchild. I am married to my husband Chris and we have 5 children: Ande 27, Kyle 26, Ana 26, and one grandchild.

My plan is to get to know my district better and help each post to better if they will let me. I hope to get more younger veterans involved in the Legion because we are losing the older generation of veterans, and their knowledge with them. We also need to work on getting the women veterans to know they are welcome in the Legion as well.

I am new at this so I am still trying to figure out what to do next, but do know I want to make my district new and improved by the time I am done with it. I would like to try and keep the Legion as a team because there is no I in team. My Vice Commander is Brent Frier from Vermillion, and together, we look forward to learning and serving with you. Have a very Merry Christmas, and I hope that 2021 brings us back together.
2020 Fall District Meetings

Above: Rapid City Post #22 Legionnaire Chris "Van" VanDelist receives the Legionnaire of the Year award. Above L: District 1 Commander David Booze and Post #33 member Darrel Barry converse during social hour at the District 1 Fall Meeting held in Box Elder. Center L: Post #22 Commander Lyle Toloma performs the opening ceremonies of the District 2 Meeting held in Rapid City. Below L: Vice Commander Harry Boner and Department Commander Fred Nelson pose at the podium at the District 3 meeting held in Pierre. Below R: Aberdeen Post #24 Commander Steven Nemmers accepts an Americanism award from Department Commander Fred Nelson. Bottom: Newly elected County and District leadership take their oath of office from Department Commander Fred Nelson at the District 4 Fall Meeting held in Oacoma.
Above: Chad Hardy and Noel Cummins take their oath of office as the District 5 Vice Commander and Grant County Commander, respectively. Above R: District 5 Commander Matt Legerstrom and Department Commander Fred Nelson pose outside the District 5 Meeting held in Sisseton. Right: Leon Josephsen of Post #42 is recognized at the District #6 Meeting held in Arlington for having the most years as a Legionnaire present. Lower R: Department Commander Fred Nelson recognizes Andy Lyngen of Garretson Post #23 as District Legionnaire of the Year at the District #7 Meeting held in Dell Rapids. Bottom R: Newly elected District Vice Commander Brent Frier of Wakonda and District Commander Jennifer VanBoekel of Marion stand with Department Commander Fred Nelson at the District #8 Meeting held in Wakonda. Bottom L: Department Service Officer Courtney VanZanten and Wakonda Legionnaire Paul Jensen pose for a picture. Below: Department Commander Fred Nelson addresses the District #6 audience at the new Arlington American Legion Post Home.
Member Spotlight: Paul Payne, Plankinton Post #5

Name: Paul Payne
Post: Plankinton Post #5
Military Service: US Army
Why Nominated: Paul Payne took over Post 5 in Plankinton in 2007. When Paul took over as as Post Sec/Treasurer the Post was down to 12 members and was in jeopardy of losing its charter. Paul worked hard on getting membership up to what it is today over 100.

Paul and Leanne have always been there for the Veterans their families. And the service is a family affair: Paul and Leanne have four children Kenny, Kristi, Kurt, and Kim. Kenny and Kurt both are Military Veterans. Kenny is our VFW Inspector, and is our VFW Post 6554 Commander. Paul and Leanne have four children Kenny, Kristi, Kurt, and Kim. Kenny and Kurt both are Military Veterans. Kenny is our VFW Inspector, and is our VFW Post 6554 Commander.

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Greetings my fellow Legionnaires. Fall is here and the snow will be flying soon. This time of year commonly finds most Post hosting their Annual Poultry Parties. With this year not being a normal year, that puts plans like this on hold. I know that Poultry party is the largest fund raiser for many Post each year. No having this can put a damper on the Post finances. During the Fall meetings, I spoke about going back to basics and re-entertaining those ideas that many Post have had in the past regarding fund raising events for the Post, which in many cases doubles and a community service for the community. While we may not want to huddle together inside, as time and the weather allows, that can be outdoor events that could held. Indoor events could be held as well, as long as there is plenty of room to spread out wide. We want to offer a service while keeping in mind the public safety. I had a chance to visit with Hans Nelson from Veblen. I asked him what his Post had been up to in the crazy time. He told me about a year event that the host and how it was different this year, but they were still able to hold it. First some back story from Hans, "Well, were do I start? About 10 years ago the city was attempting to have a harvest day / festival. I was on that committee. Then about 8 years ago the Veblen Legion decided to have a car show to fill in between the 3 k runs/walk and the rodeo. We bought trophies for 1st and 2nd place in 5-6 categories, flags, cheap food, pick up modified and bike. We had 7 entrees that first year. We had a $25.00 entrance fee and we went in the red by a few hundred dollars. The second year we had an entrance fee of $25.00, but we had 3 cooperating sponsors. NAPA, Ford dealership, and a local repair shop. These sponsors paid $75.00 for their advertisement banner, with future years being $50.00. The first year was to defray the cost of printing the 3 x 6 banner. We display these banners along the sidewalk during the show and a lot of our sponsors display them in their business during the year. I don’t remember how many cars we had, but we reused the previous year’s trophies, and bought extra ones and still we were in the red. I think we were on the verge of giving this event the axe, and then I started going to other car shows and asking a lot of questions. We needed sponsorship and a lot of it. Free or otherwise, (radio, newspaper) and don’t have a car show the same time as someone else. You can have it the same day but morning - vs - afternoon. Some of the people who have fancy cars may hit two - three shows a week, or more. Advertisement. Also as Commander Nelson said, “You need a salesman.” This year was our eight year with 32 entrees, No entrance fees 10 corporate sponsors, 6 - first place trophies (no second place) best in show people’s choice plaques. We also raffle a 20’ flag pole and flag at our show. It draws people and most will give you a $10.00 bill for a flag pole raffle. Because of COVID and social distancing we didn’t do the raffle this year. After all the bills are paid - Advertisement fliers, ads in two local papers, trophies / plaques, flag pole / flag, postage and office supplies. Last year we gave Operation Comfort Warrior $450.00. If there is a post who wants me to come and talk to them about our program I’ll please pass on this information, Veblen had a successful event. Hosting alternative events, i.e. car shows, Barn Dances, Harvest days with corn mazes, pumpkin/apple picking and hay rides, Motorcycle poker runs are just some examples of how to get the community involved in order to help a programs of the American Legion. Proceeds earned from each Post can be put towards Legion Baseball, Boys State, the Oratory Contest and local scholarships for students, not to mention other Legion programs. Please remember that is not only about earning money, it is about supporting the community, Veterans in the community and programs of the Legion. Thinking of alternative ways to support the programs and educating the public about what the American Legion is all about will help to draw in the community and fellow Veterans into wanting to know more about the Legion, which may help with membership in the long run. Remember to be creative and be safe.

Submitted by
Harry Boner
State Vice Commander

Jim Huls
National Executive Committeeman
Fellow Legionnaires,

The Full Meetings of the National Executive Committee were held via Zoom on October 14-15. All Commission and Committee meetings were held prior our meetings. All Action, Committee and Council members will remain the same for this next year except those that have resigned were replaced. Only change for the Department of South Dakota was Appointment of Krista DeWitt replacing Ed Stringer on the National Security Council because Ed resigned due to health issues. All Commission and Committee Chairman gave reports on their activities for the past year. Based on their reports, the business of The American Legion continued normally for the past year as more than 30 Resolutions were presented to the National Executive Committee for our approval.

Three resolutions should be of interest to South Dakota Legionnaires, those being Resolution # 38, that changed the wording of the Vision to “The American Legion: Veterans Strengthening America” and changes to the Mission Statement “ To enhance the well-being of American veterans, their families, our military, and communities by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.”

Resolution #36, Mission Blue Post Assistance Program, Posts impacted by a government’s public health restrictions implemented in response to the COVID-19 pandemic may apply for a grant up to $1000. Posts must meet strong eligibility criteria. State headquarters has the applications and directions.

Resolution # 35, American Legion Insurance Requirements, Any organization using the Tradenames of The American Legion (American Legion Posts), and needing liability insurance coverage, is required to specify that “The American Legion and the respective Department of The American Legion is held harmless and named as an additional insured on any and all insurance liability policies. The majority of insurance agencies do not charge for this endorsement; therefore, if presented with an additional charge one should inquire why such additional fee.

You will see more on these Resolutions as we move forward. Merry Christmas, and stay safe out there.

For God and Country,
Jim Huls
National Executive Committeeman
As the State Membership Chairman I “should be” talking about how many members have renewed this new fiscal year. With COVID-19 being more prominent in our everyday lives and impacting more of our friends and family, now is the time to look at outreach programs to our Veterans (not just Legionnaires) who live in our communities and have become self-con- fined prisoners of our own homes.

The American Legion’s Buddy Check program is important to check up on our brothers and sisters to see how they are doing. Many of our more mature Veterans/families are practicing self-imposed lockdown and are not venturing out. The days of running out for a few things from the store is become a big challenge for them to keep the hand sanitizer, keeping away from others and being wary of who touch is what new concerns we all face. Calling on our community veterans to see how they are doing is vital to their well-being.

I ask each Post to reach out to their members and the veterans in their community to see how they are doing before Christmas. Adding into the Posts sick call report of COVID quarantines in the community along with known veterans who have con- cerns over exposure and placing them on a frequent caller list to check on. Active communication within the Post on this matter is vital.

The final talking point to this month’s ar- ticle is the South Dakota American Le- gion Executive Committee has decided to expand the State Membership council’s responsibility to include marketing. The Dept. Membership / Marking committee is in need of members who are experienced in marketing / sales professions. Interested members who wish to contribute their expertise can call State Headquarters or e-mail adjutant@sdlegion.org to apply to be considered for placement on this committee.

I want to wish every Veteran and Adventist Advocate a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Travis Flisrand
Department Membership Chair
Above: The Sons of the American Detachment leadership present Squadron #25 with their official charter. Congratulations Madison!

Left: Box Elder Member Marv Tisdall and District 1 Adjutant Joanna Merrill present a certificate of recognition to the family of WWII veteran Walter Joynt.

Right: Members of Harrisburg Post #45 Bill Dunker, Sheldon Ahrendt and Jeff Clow present a Quilt of Valor to longtime Legionnaire and Army veteran Philip Pravacek. Each year, Auxiliary member Deb Clow makes a quilt for a deserving Post #45 member, and nominations are put forth. Congrats Philip!

American Legion
Around the State

At District 7 Fall Meeting in Dell Rapids, the South Dakota American Legion had the distinct honor of presenting the permanent charter of the Patrick W. Herried American Legion Post #911 in the presence of Patrick’s mother, Rita Herried and sister, Stacey Herried. Patrick W. Herried, 29, of Sioux Falls, was killed in action on February 6, 2006, when an improvised explosive device detonated near his Stryker military vehicle during patrol operations in Rawah, Iraq. He was assigned to the 4th Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment, 172nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, Fort Wainwright, Alaska.

The Sisseton Post #50 taking part in the Veterans Day Parade
Washington, D.C.
October 3, 1863

By the President of the United States of America.

A Proclamation

The year that is drawing towards its close, has been filled with the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies. To these bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to

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