

**VFW POST #17
AMERICAN LEGION POST #24
DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS POST #13
NEWSLETTER**

Sept-Oct 2007

Editor: TBA

Editorial

Membership in Veterans Organizations has long been a concern and problem, and yet has done much for the mission of the organization. **Each organization has been established for the sole purpose of protecting the rights of Veterans.** The concern and problem for each organization has been membership. Whether it has been getting eligible individuals to join or trying to keep the members as some fail to pay their dues. Leaders in the organizations have experienced some resistance from individuals by being asked the question. "What is in it for me?" Those individuals seem to expect that they are going to get something free or at a discount. Others have openly resented the fact that they have to pay a cover charge at a dance, stating that they have been in good standing for so many years that it should be free to them. Well folks it is not in the cards anymore, and really has never been. It takes money to open the doors and it takes money to keep the doors open. Obviously, as you are reading this newsletter, you are in good standing and thus receive this letter. Yet some have failed to join for some reason. We know that some failed to join some years ago because the educational benefits were not equal with Guard and Reserve so some blamed the organizations for not lobbying and getting equal benefits. Some fail to realize that without numbers in the organizations that the local VA Clinic would not have happened. The numbers needed to be made available to our US delegation and to the VA to show a need for the clinic. Yet there have been some local politicians and individuals who have tried to take the credit for the clinic and yes it was due to a concerted effort but no one person is to be credited but rather the organizations, as it was the numbers of Veterans and the push from the organizations that we today have a clinic in Aberdeen. In the late 50's and early 60's it was

the VA's belief that they could save considerable money if they closed the VA Hospital in Sioux Falls and have people travel to Minneapolis for medical services. The Veterans organizations **stopped** that move which would have been disastrous.

Our local DAV van which transports Veterans to Sioux Falls for their medical appointments would never have happened without the hard work of individuals who are members of the DAV and other organizations. But it takes volunteers and money to keep such programs running for the benefit of Veterans.

Each organization has a host of other programs in the community for youth and others. It takes money and also takes volunteers. These programs are not supported solely by the membership dues. In fact our dues could not support the programs each organization maintains as some of the dues goes to National and some has to be used for newsletters, postage and basic costs of the organization. Also much time is spent each year and with some cost by having to send out notices of dues and running down the individuals to get them to pay. Time and money that would be better spent on some of our programs.

In summary speaking for each organization it would be a noted savings and improve the activities and programs of each organization by doing the following:

- Consider a paid up for life membership (payments are available in some organizations)
- Pay your dues promptly
- Recruit others you may know who are eligible
- Attend meetings
- Volunteer to help
- Decide to devote 4 hours per month
- Use the facilities available
- Be thankful for what we have, that was put in place by those who have passed on and those who are no longer able to carry on!

QUARTERMASTER QUIPS

Election and installation of Officers took place at the Regular Meeting in May. Not a lot has taken place since their terms only started after State Convention. It is not too late to come in and offer your support to them and for the various programs planned for this year. You may even be asked to help and learn what good projects we are involved in.

This next Monday we will finish our term of **Monster Burgers**—The Legion will take over the 2nd Monday of September. I have really appreciated the HELP we had this past year, especially the last couple months when I was doctoring and too weak to help. Good people stepped up and got the job done. What praise to our Comrades and Sisters.

We will be having our Klondike fund raiser again this year. We will be deciding our prizes, ticket sending, etc. very soon and look for ideas each year. We will not have a lot of time to sell tickets, as we intend to send them out with the Nov-Dec. newsletter. I was unable to attend meetings and plan ahead of time, so we are a little set-back, but like with the Monster Burgers, I know we will have people step up to help.

As you know, I have been concerned for quite some time about the needs of our Post and the income from the Canteen which keeps our Post Home going. We (Management under the direction of the House Committee) are trying to do some things that will increase our revenue. For these efforts to be successful, they need to be a joint effort between Management and members and guests. Our Friday evening meals are doing quite well but we can do better. These meals are comparatively cheap, and feeding a few more will increase our profits. To this end, we have added a half hour earlier slot. Call in with your choice of menu and time you desire to eat. We really need to double our attendance from 30's to 50's to make it a sound program. Maybe the end of the Barbecue season this fall will do wonders for members and guests to come out and enjoy a nice dinner and do some visiting with fellow members and friends.

Lastly I really do appreciate all the prayers, cards, etc. VFW Members, Auxiliary, and friends at the VFW Home have given to me. Doctors have figured out a diagnosis and I am now taking medication, so I hope to be stronger and more energetic soon.

Al Sebert, Quartermaster

American Legion Commander Briefs

It's always something.

This has been a busy summer and it seems there is always one more thing to do, weed the garden, mow the lawn, paint anything that doesn't move, get those summer projects done. Now that school is starting many of us will be busy with all of those things, conferences, sports events, and of course checking the homework. All these things demand our time.

It's always something. But we do manage to squeeze in those other things we want to do, go camping, go to the fair, go to that picnic to see the cousins and burn some hotdogs on the grill, go the zoo with the grandkids. Good times, and all things we should be able to, no, need to enjoy.

In the last newsletter I said I was asking for a bit of your time, and there were some members who responded. We make time for these things in our busy schedules because they are important to us personally. We keep our organization alive and make the community a better place by the things we do at the local level. By increasing our membership we enable our leaders to have a strong voice at the national level and press for the things that we as an organization value.

COMMIT some time to the Post, because when it comes to our time it's always something.

We have a number of things we do as a post that will need people year round such as the Firing Squad or kitchen help for the Monster Burgers. (Shameless plug for helpers goes here, let me or Gene, or Al know if you are interested) But we also have some annual events that are just a few weeks off. Turkey shoot is set for Oct 19th, the day before Pheasant season opens, contact Second Vice Commander Tom Perrizo. He can use helpers to run the games and to spread the word to come out for a night of fun.

County Government Day, Tues. Nov. 13th 7:00 AM-County Courthouse, Aberdeen. The post is looking for members to help chaperone the students through the courthouse. County Officials will be on hand at each office to discuss what the office does, but we need members to walk with the groups (about 15 kids) from office to office through the courthouse and the Dakota Prairie Museum. This is a normal work day and does involve quite a bit of walking. Please contact Americanism Officer, Paula Beckler if you can help us out.

The 2008 Membership Drive is underway. Please remember that if you want to give somebody go-getter credit for your dues that you have to include their name so the Adjutant is

aware of it. Just as a reminder, dues have gone up to \$30 per year beginning with the 2008 membership year because of an increase in the amount of dues that must be forwarded to National.

Upcoming events and copies of newsletter can be found on the web page,

www.aberdeenlegion.org/ Next meeting:

Monday Sept. 17, 8:00PM, VFW Post Home, 821 Circle Drive, Aberdeen. I hope to see you there.

Steve Nemmers, Legion Commander

Monster Burgers by the VFW

As we mentioned in the last newsletter Linda Van Scoy, Bonnie Bitz, and Betty Heathman have completed the prep work for our summer of hosting the Monsters. Another person who has worked very hard with the prep is Larry Nupen who is very active in the organizations. Thanks to you all for all of your behind the scenes help and dedication for being there for the summer. It takes 3-5 hours of prep time for one night of burgers depending on the number of volunteers. Later as the grill warms up Pam Heiser, Greg Vandekamp and Dennis Nelson have performed well with the frying burgers, toasting of buns and frying of fries respectively. They have had back-up of John Meier, Ed Lampert and Dale Strom when some are unavailable. This is the hot and heavy part of the evening. About 2-1/2 hours of just cooking time can be exhausting and include lots of stories, tails and just plain fun. We mentioned last time that Ruth Holsten, Elton Herman, and Curt and Donna Misslitz performed the duties of serving, taking money, replenishing, and clean-up. Well they have others who also are there to help that being Kate Lammle, Mary Lou Adams, and Sally and Al Waltman. Al, Curt and Ruth are usually the golden voices heard overhead that tell the customer that "chow is ready." Anytime there is acknowledgement of volunteers we run the risk of overlooking someone. We would never do that intentionally, but if we have we apologize and will run a correction. But thanks again to all of you for making Monsters for the summer. We also thank Seberty for his ever watchful eye in the process.

Special Fund Raising Event

On August 4, 2007 VFW Post 17 sponsored a fundraiser for Doug and Sandy Glaser. Doug who is a life member of the Post had a brain aneurism and has been hospitalized since December 1, 2006. The benefit was hailed as a

success, with lots of fun for the participants. Doug is at this writing still in the VA Hospital in Sioux Falls. Doug and Sandy would like to extend thanks to all of the planning committee, the individuals and businesses that donated and all of the people who attended. They would like to list all who helped in the benefit but run the risk of overlooking someone.

Post 17 note: If people who know Doug care to send him a get well card they can do so by sending it to him at the VA Hospital, 2501 W 22nd, PO 5046, Sioux Falls, SD 57117

Carpet fund/Vietnam Book

Through the generosity of Quality Quick Print we have been given copies of the 300+ page book printed for the dedication of the South Dakota Vietnam Veterans Memorial. The book originally sold for \$60.00 but due to over printing they are now on sale at the VFW for \$15.00. The funds generated by the sale of the books will go toward the carpet fund at the VFW. The book is very well done with pictures and stories as told by Veterans. This will be the last chance to buy this wonderful book of testimony of Veterans who served their country. For you Veterans who have not purchased one or for friends, children and as presents this is a great book, well done of well deserving Veterans.

DAV

On Tues. Oct. 9th at 8:00PM there will be a presentation of a Flag and uniform to Carl O. Swanson III, son of Carl O. Swanson II who our local Chapter is named after. Carl the III never knew his father as his father died while Carl III was a baby. This is as a result of the May flood when Dean Shortridge's home was being renovated and a Flag and uniform were in a trunk belonging to Dean's wife's first husband Carl O. Swanson II, who was killed in a training mission in Colorado.

We encourage your attendance to be able to gain some background on the person who our Chapter is named.

Greg Vande Kamp, DAV Chaplain

Newsletter Members

This newsletter is ready for print by 9/10. I feel this is not acceptable for getting our information together for print. It also takes a few days for the printer to put it together and get it out to the membership. We need to put some effort into this or consider discontinuing Al Seberty, VFW Quartermaster

CALENDAR OF POST HOME EVENTS

Sept 07
Sat Sept 1--Wedding
Sat Sept 8--Wedding
Sun Sept 9--Aman Family
Fri Sept 14--Wedding
Sat Sept 15--3M Casino Nite
Sun Sept 16--60th Anniv
Fri Sept 21--Dinners
Sat Sept 22--Wedding
Sun Sept 23--Dance 2-5
Sat Sept 29--Wedding
Sun Sept 30 Pancake feed 8-12
Oct 07
Fri Oct 5--Dinners 5-8 PM
Sat Oct 6--Wedding

Sat Oct 13--Abdn. CART club
Fri Oct 19--Legion Turkey Shoot
Thurs Oct 25--VFW Membership Drive 6 PM
Sat Oct 27--Appreciation nite
Sun Oct 28--Starliters 1:30-5:30PM

If you are planning a birthday, anniversary, wedding or party please contact John "Pickle" Meier at 229-4336 or 225-9975 or 380-2002 for bookings
Remember Carpet Fund donations!!
Friday nite Dinners!!!!