



# Bensley-Rounds Post 280

## Post Notes

Iroquois, South Dakota



Volume 17 Issue 1

Colin Royal, Editor, Member SDALPA

January 20, 2012

Next Meeting – February 2, 2012  
Time: 7:00pm.  
At Post Home, Iroquois, S.D.

“He that would make his own liberty secure, must guard even his enemy from opposition; for if he violates this duty he establishes a precedent that will reach himself. “~Thomas Paine

### COMMANDER’S CORNER

Next meeting is February 2, 2012 at the Post home at 7:00PM.

Post Breakfast on February 12, 2012.

February 5<sup>th</sup> is Four Chaplains Sunday.

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

**District 6 Meeting Set** – Sunday, April 15, Mitchell American Legion Post Home, Meeting at 3:02 p.m., Social following meeting, Banquet at approximately 5:30 p.m. District Executive Committee will meet at 2:02 p.m. The Auxiliary will meet in the Mitchell Post Home basement.

### MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Membership is off to an early jump as we have 85 members paid for the 2012 year with a goal of 102. If you have not paid your dues please do so ASAP so we can get them in to the Department.

2013 dues will be going up to \$35 as voted by the membership present at the November meeting. This dues increase falls in line with the National dues increase to take effect on July 1, 2012 for the 2013 year. The Post dues will also increase as of July 1, 2012 for the 2013 year.

Remember, just ask the new members to join and ask the past members to renew their membership and Just Ask One More.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Jan 25 – Kingsbury Meeting @ Oldham  
Feb 2 - Post Meeting  
Feb 5 - Four Chaplains Sunday

“Just Ask One More”  
**2012 Membership: 83.33%**

Feb 8 - Legislative Reception  
Feb 10-12 – Mid-Winter Conference  
Feb 12 – Breakfast  
Feb 14 – Valentines Day  
Feb 16 – Auxiliary Meeting  
Mar 1 - Post Meeting  
Mar 11 – Breakfast  
Mar 11 – Daylight Savings begins  
Mar 15 – Auxiliary Meeting  
Mar 15-17 – American Legion Birthday

### AUXILIARY UNIT 280 NEWS

The January meeting was cancelled due to the weather.

The next meeting is February 16, 2012 at 7:00 PM at the Post Home.

### LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION SET

(From UTN 3070 – 1/18/12)

The South Dakota American Legion Legislative Committee has set the date for the 2012 American Legion Legislative Reception for Wednesday, February 8, 2012. The reception will be held at the Pierre American Legion Post 8, located at the south end of Pierre Street. The reception will start at 5:30 p.m. and run until approximately 9:00 p.m.

The Department Legislative Committee will meet at 10:30 a.m. to review past resolutions and again at 3:30 p.m. to discuss the American Legion Legislative Agenda prior to the reception.

Everyone is encouraged to attend the meetings and reception. Please contact the legislators from your legislative district and personally invite them to the reception.

### MIDWINTER BANQUET TICKETS

(From UTN 3070 – 1/18/12)

Tickets for the MidWinter Conference Joint Banquet will be by advance sale only. The Joint Banquet will be held Friday, February 10, 2012, at

7:00 p.m. The menu will consist of steak & shrimp (6 oz. sirloin and 3 shrimp), twice baked potatoes, corn o'brien and cheesecake.

Tickets are \$30.00 each and can be obtained by sending \$30.00 per ticket requested to Potter American Legion Post 3, PO Box 348, Chamberlain, SD 57325.

#### Did You Know?

- The **Four Chaplains**, also sometimes referred to as the "Immortal Chaplains," were four United States Army chaplains who gave their lives to save other civilian and military personnel during the sinking of the troop ship USAT *Dorchester* during World War II.
- On March 15-17, 1919, the first Legion caucus, held by members of the American Expeditionary Force, convened in Paris.



On Feb. 3, 1943, the United States Army Transport *Dorchester* – a converted luxury liner – was crossing the North Atlantic, transporting more than 900 troops to an American base in Greenland. Aboard the ship were four chaplains of different faiths: Reverend George Fox (Methodist), Jewish Rabbi Alexander Goode, Reverend Clark Poling (Dutch Reformed) and Father John Washington (Roman Catholic).

Around 12:55 a.m., a German U-boat fired a torpedo that struck *Dorchester's* starboard side, below the water line and near the engine room. The explosion instantly killed 100 men and knocked out power and radio communication with *Dorchester's* three escort ships. Within 20 minutes, the transport sank and more than 670 men died.

As soldiers rushed to lifeboats, the four chaplains spread out, comforting the wounded and directing others to safety. One survivor, Private

William Bednar, later said, "I could hear men crying, pleading, praying. I could also hear the chaplains' preaching courage. Their voices were the only thing that kept me going."

Another survivor, John Ladd, watched the chaplains' distribute life jackets, and when they ran out, they removed theirs and gave them to four young men. "It was the finest thing I have seen, or hope to see, this side of heaven," he recalled.

As *Dorchester* sank, the chaplains were seen linked arm in arm, praying.

Fox, Goode, Poling and Washington were posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross and the Purple Heart, and in 1948, Congress declared Feb. 3 to be Four Chaplains Day. The four chaplains were also honored with a U.S. postage stamp that year.



"When you say 'quagmire with no exit strategy', you're talking about our relationship, right?"

"Freedom has its life in the hearts, the actions, the spirit of men and so it must be daily earned and refreshed - else like a flower cut from its life-giving roots, it will wither and die." ~Dwight D. Eisenhower