



# Bensley-Rounds Post 280

## Post Notes

Iroquois, South Dakota



Volume 17 Issue 8

Colin Royal, Editor, Member SDALPA

August 20, 2012

Next Meeting – September 6, 2012  
Time: 8:00pm.  
At Post Home, Iroquois, S.D.

“Just Ask”

2013 Membership: 62.75%



Our sympathies go out to the family of Marvin Whites, a 65 year Charter member of the Bensley-Rounds American Legion Post 280.

What is the essence of America? Finding and maintaining that perfect, delicate balance between freedom "to" and freedom "from."  
~Marilyn vos Savant, in Parade

### COMMANDER'S CORNER

Next meeting is September 6, 2012 at the Post home at 8:00PM.

The next Kingsbury County meeting will be September 26, 2012 at Erwin with a flag retirement ceremony at 7:00pm.

Breakfast for the Museum on September 9, 2012. Next Breakfast for the Post on October 21, 2012.

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

**Sept 28 – District 6** - Wessington Springs American Legion Post Home, Social 5:00 p.m., Dinner 6:00 p.m., Meeting 7:00 p.m., Auxiliary meeting site to be announced.

Deb Jennings was named as the Volunteer of the Year during Sports Day this past June.

### MEMBERSHIP REPORT

The 2013 cards are in and the 2013 membership year has begun. We have 64 members paid of the goal of 102 for the 2013 year. Remember that the dues are now \$35 and you may begin sending them in.

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



2012-2013 Fifth grade class completed a flag etiquette class on August 27, 2012. They will be the custodians of the colors for this school year. Their task is to raise and lower the flag, fold and store the flag of our country.

### Koutz Elected National Commander

James E. Koutz of Boonville, Ind., was elected national commander of The American Legion on Aug. 30, 2012, during the organization's 94th National Convention in Indianapolis.

Koutz entered the United States Army in August 1969. He attended basic training at Ft.



Knox, Ky., and Advanced Infantry Training at Ft. Ord, Calif. In January 1970 he reported to Vietnam and served an extended tour of duty with Co. C 169th Engineer Battalion. He was honorably discharged with the rank of Specialist 5 in March 1971 and quickly joined The American Legion. He is a member of Boonville Post 200 where his father, George, was a World War II veteran and a past commander of the post. Jim was honored as a life member of his Post in 1991 and served as its post commander for nine years. Koutz retired from the Amax Coal Company in 1995 after 21 years of service. He was appointed by the Warrick County Commissioners in January 1995 as service officer for the Warrick County Veterans Affairs office. The governor of Indiana appointed him commissioner of the Department of Veterans Affairs in 2005 where he served as president of that commission in 2007. In January 2009 he was appointed to serve four more years. Koutz has held elected and appointed offices in The American Legion at the post, county, district, department and national levels. As Indiana State American Legion Commander, he achieved an all-time high membership during his tenure in 1990-1991. At the national level, he served on the Foreign Relations Commission and as chairman of both the Economics and Legislative Commissions. Additionally, he is a member of the Citizens Flag Alliance and also served on the Veterans' Planning and Coordinating Committee.

He was awarded the State of Indiana Council of the Sagamore of the Wabash in 1991 by former Gov. Evan Bayh and recognized for outstanding community achievement of Vietnam veterans by President Jimmy Carter. He received the Elks Distinguished Citizenship Award from the Grand Lodge of Order of the Elks and Boonville Elks Lodge No. 1180.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Sep 6 – Post Meeting  
 Sep 9 – Breakfast  
 Sep 14 - Homecoming  
 Sep 20 – Auxiliary Meeting w/potluck  
 Sep 26 – Kingsbury Meeting @ Erwin  
 - Flag Retirement Ceremony @ 7:00pm

Sep 28 – District 6 Meeting at Wessington Springs  
 Oct 4 – Post Meeting  
 Oct 18 – Auxiliary Meeting  
 Oct 21 – Pancake Feed  
 Oct 31 – Kingsbury County Meeting @ Hetland

### **SAL SQUADRON 280 NEWS**

The Detachment of South Dakota is still selling tickets for the Dell Inspiron Laptop which will be drawn at the Mid-Winter Conference. Tickets are \$5 or 3 for \$10, contact Colin Royal, 605-354-0310 for tickets.



### **Huntzinger Elected National Commander**

Chris Huntzinger of Penbrook Squadron 730 in Harrisburg, Pa., was elected national commander of the Sons of The American Legion Sunday during the organization's 41st national convention in Indianapolis.

"I plan to promote the heck out of this organization," Huntzinger said after assuming the SAL's highest office. "Positive exposure is going to do wonders. We don't have a problem getting new members. If we educate them, they will stay and we can be a viable force in the organization."

Huntzinger, 55, is a 23-year member of the SAL. He helped charter the Penbrook squadron, which has grown from 16 to 600 members over the years. He went on to serve as detachment commander in 2001 and 2002 and as a national executive committeeman from 2003 to 2008. He has held numerous other offices at every level of the SAL.

### **AUXILIARY UNIT 280 NEWS**

The next meeting is September 20, 2012 at 7:00 PM at the Post Home, there will be a potluck dinner.



Our Sympathies go out to the family of Zona Zeeck, a longtime member of the Bensley-Rounds American Legion Auxiliary Unit 280.

## Thomas Elected National President



Peggy Thomas, of Richmond, Va., was elected national president of the American Legion Auxiliary during the organization's 92nd National Convention in Indianapolis Aug. 24-30.

Thomas joined the American Legion Auxiliary through her late husband, John C. Thomas, a U.S. Army veteran. She is the first national president from Virginia since Anna Gear in 1983-1984.

Thomas, a 31-year member of the Auxiliary, has held numerous leadership positions in the organization at the unit, district and department levels. At the national level, she just completed her term as vice president and has served as chairman of the following committees: Veteran Affairs & Rehabilitation, Children & Youth, Leadership, National Security, Constitution & Bylaws, Poppy, Legislative, and Membership. She has served her Virginia department as president, secretary and chairman of a variety of committees including the Advisory Committee for 10 years. Thomas served Auxiliary Unit 144 as president twice and as secretary, and Unit 137 as president. She has held all chairmanships in both units.

A retired vice president of a petroleum distributorship with three divisions, Thomas continues the American Legion Auxiliary motto of Service Not Self by volunteering as the Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service deputy at the Hunter Holmes McGuire VAMC in Richmond, Va. She was listed in "Who's Who in Women in Business."

"Love your country. Your country is the land where your parents sleep, where is spoken that language in which the chosen of your heart, blushing, whispered the first word of love; it is the home that God has given you that by striving to perfect yourselves therein you may prepare to ascend to him." ~Giuseppe Mazzini



## ON LINE MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

American Legion members can renew their 2013 membership on line through [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org). Members renew using their credit card, print a temporary card and mail or take their receipt to the Post to receive their new card.

Posts can monitor all renewals by subscribing to [www.mylegion.org](http://www.mylegion.org) through the National website. Mylegion.org is free of charge.