



Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Nebraska News Letter

Member of N.A.L.P.A.
Sons 2010 Membership = 2,348
Goal for January 13, 2010 60%

Editor: Harold E. Thompson, Jr.
Sons 2009 Membership = 5,669
1,054 Short for January Membership

Volume 12, Issue 2

STRENGTH IN NUMBERS

DECEMBER 2009 & JANUARY 2010

COMMANDER Frederickson NOTES

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Greeting to all members of The Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Nebraska.

As we close out 2009 and move forward into the 2010 year, it is time for all Squadrons to be moving forward with membership. This year our membership is called "Strength in Numbers" and in looking at the Detachment membership analysis dated November 25, 2009 there are way too many "0" Squadrons on this report! We are almost halfway thru our 2009-2010 year so by now every Squadron should have membership turned in. We have created a "Membership Team" and have assigned a Sons member responsibility for a District and each Squadron within that District. Squadron Commanders and Adjutants, we will be calling each

month until the summer convention to remind you to turn in membership in a timely fashion. Our goal this year is 105% membership, with over 85% retention of existing members. Why? The National Commander of The Sons of The American Legion, Mark Arneson (GA.) has challenged all Detachments with the "Triple Nickel" challenge, to charter 5 new Squadrons plus the goals I mentioned previously. The Detachment of Nebraska is also in a challenge with the Detachment of Kansas, a membership "Border War". This challenge will be based on number of new members signed up, total percentage as of July 31, 2010 and membership retention rate. A traveling trophy is at stake here and I want to see the first year winner be Nebraska. Can we achieve these challenges? I believe so. There are many, many dedicated members of the Sons all across Nebraska and I am asking everyone to get on board

(Notes Continued on page 3)

SR. VICE COMMANDER REPORT BY DAVID KAMENSKE

Hi fellow Sons members.

Happy Holidays to you and yours. Please walk up and say thanks to all the service men and women that you see, and keep the ones that we don't see that are far away in your prayers too.

I would like to update you. We have two new Squadrons in district 7, Dwight and Leigh. I presented both of their Charters at the District 7 roundup on Oct 25, 2009 in Dwight, Nebraska. Congratulations to them both and I'm sure they will do well.

Membership is coming in slow and we still have some Squadrons that have not turned in any memberships to the Detachment. You know who you are. Let's get as many cards as we can in before the end of the year. By the way East is way ahead of the West in membership percent turned in.

The winter convention is coming on the 8th though the 10th of January. It will be held in Norfolk, Nebraska at the Norfolk Lodge & Suites. I would like to extend a personal invitation to attend the convention. We will have some presentations prepared that will be interesting and informative. Mark the date on your calendar and we will see you at the convention.

I would like to see each member bring a picture of their father or grand father that made them eligible for the Sons of The American Legion. We would like to put them on a wall of honor and the web site in their honor.

I hope everyone has seen the new calendar on the web site. If not, go to www.nebraskasal.net

and take a look. Click on the Calendar link on the left. We are updating it with information from all the squadrons in the Detachment of Nebraska.

We would like to have your Squadrons meeting date, time, and where to add to the Detachment Calendar. Also if you have an event, fundraiser your Squadron is putting on or just new about your Squadron, please send it in and we will advertise for you free. Send your flyers and posters too. For now you can send all web information to me at alr@mackengeld.com and I will get it put on the calendar.

We have been working on a new web site for the Sons. It is about ready for the internet world and all to see. We need a resolution to the legion and talk about funding the new site, if it is to become a reality.

I would also like to formally announce it is my intention to run for your next Detachment Commander for the coming year. I would like to have your support in the upcoming election.

As always if I can be of any help to your squadron, or district please do not hesitate to contact me. I'm here to work for you – for with out you – the Sons would not be what it is today.

For the betterment of the Sons
David (Bronson) Kamenske
Senior Vice Commander



COMMANDER REPORT FREDERICKSON

continuities

and support us to achieve these goals.

Another subject I want to discuss with the Detachment membership is the Child Welfare Foundation, or CWF. Established in 1954 by The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation this program was developed for the betterment of all children in this country. So what do they do? The fund provides grants to non-profit organizations each year that work to improve the lives of young people. These grants have aided organ-donor campaigns, support efforts to help young children cope with the deployment or loss of a parent, funded projects and programs that increase public awareness of Huntington's disease, autism, Reyes Syndrome, meningitis, spina bifida, children's diabetes, cancer, and other conditions. The Sons of The American Legion have "adopted" the CWF as one of our most important programs that we support year in and year out. All the money donated to the CWF goes into the Trust Fund used only for these grants. Few, if any other foundations can make this claim. Over the last few years here in Nebraska our CWF donations have been sub-par at best. So this year our goal is donations of \$1.00 per member, or a total of no less than \$5,500.00 donated to the CWF by the Detachment of Nebraska. Squadron Commanders, when your Squadron looks to make a donation remember the CWF. If you have any questions about the CWF, please call me at 402-659-9260. Or e-mail me at kdf41857@cox.net. I will be more than happy to visit with anyone about the CWF program.

Our Mid-Winter workshop is being held in Norfolk, January 8 thru the 10. The Sons will be

meeting Saturday afternoon on January 9 at 1:00PM. We have an excellent and informative program being prepared. Squadron Adjutants, Senior Vice Commander Dave Kamenske will be having a workshop on preparing membership cards and information to support the Adjutants. Another part of the program is titled the "Wall of Honor." I am asking all Sons members to bring a picture of the Veteran they based their membership in the Sons on. We are going to have an area designated as the "Wall of Honor" and we will honor and pay tribute to these Veteran's. As our preamble states, "Proud possessors of a priceless heritage, we male descendants of Veteran's of the Great Wars associate ourselves together as Sons of The American Legion." This is what we are about, the pride of our family members who selflessly served to defend our country and our pride of belonging to The American Legion Family. If you have a picture, please bring one.

With the holiday season approaching, I want to take this opportunity to extend to all Sons members across Nebraska a "Merry Christmas and Happy New Year" from my family to each of yours. Safe travels to you and your families. While we enjoy the holidays, do not forget all the brave men and women so far from home and their loved ones over this joyous time. Take time to remember them, say a prayer for them and their families. We are America, **"The land of the free, because of the brave."** I am proud to be an **American!**

For God and Country
Karl Frederickson
Commander Detachment of Nebraska

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN Report

By DAVID RIPPE

The following are some of The highlights of the Fall 2009 minutes of Commissions/ committees meetings.

1. Legislative Commission
 - A. Homeland Security Committee will develop its own WebPages with links to other government sites.
 - B. Missing in American Project. This is about Veterans with no know Family and are laying in Funeral Homes across the U.S., from as far back as the Civil War.
2. Homeland Security & Civil Preparedness Committee.
 - A. Retired Colonel Larry Hoff will be the main Resource for this committee. He is an expert on school safety and preparation for disasters. His presentation provided the committee with background and framework needed to begin their work.
3. Public Relations
 - A. Try to get a consolidate Report form on line.
 - B. An award for the best website by Detachment, District and Squadron. Motion passed; presentation at Spring NEC.
4. V.A.& R Commission
 - A. National Association or State Veteran Homes (NASVH) set goals.
 1. Est. and maintain High level care for veterans.
 2. Provide analysis of Financial Support
 3. Provide Solidarity in the presentation of our requirements to congress and V.A. and or their responsibility to meet those needs.
 4. Provide a clearing house for techniques and expertise in care of Veterans and management of State Homes.
 - B. National Veteran Assistance Day is May 15, 2010
 - C. National Suicide Hotline is -1800-273-TALK
 - D. Honor Flight Network.
 - 30 States involved 2009 goal is to transport 25,000 Veterans to visit the Memorial in Washington D.C.
 - E. Homeless Veterans.

Veterans account for 23% of all homeless people in American
5. Children & Youth Commission
 - A. 2009 Consolidated Squadron Report Form.

1242 Squadron, 37 Districts and 26 Detachments Submitted the report.
 - B. Donation and Hours.
 1. CMN \$97,000 and 8,500 hr.
 2. Josh Dogs 1,112 Dogs at a cost of \$41,144.00
 3. Special Olympics \$123,000.00 and 11,010 volunteer Hours



NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN Report Cont.

6. Child Welfare Foundation
 - A. There are 364 Children action team "CAT" members nationwide.
 - B. Goal is to have 10 CAT members in each Detachment this year.
 - C. CWF Gal is \$500,000.00 When using the CWF Donation Envelope, make sure you check the S.A.L. Box. There will be a new CWF Coin. It should be ready in November.
 - D. CWF new incentive program for an award is called the 100% Per Capita Banner program. Donate at Least \$1.00 for each member during the CWF year and you will receive a Banner.
7. Americanism Commission
Work on Flag education and promote all of the Americanism programs
8. Internal Affairs Commission
 - A. member training and Development Committee.
 1. Several projects are being evaluated.
 2. Discussion on a Consolidated Report Form Class.
 - B. Membership Committee
 1. Discussed Goals and Dates for this year.
 2. Triple Nickel—85% Renewal, 105% Goal, and 5 new charter Squadrons.
 3. Proud Sons Remember, Recruit, Retain.
 - 1st Phase 10 for 10 Identify 10 post without a squadron. Convert 5 to have a Squadrons
 4. A son that shines. Each Detachment is to identify and recognize a sons that is shining and tell why they are shining.
9. Finance Commission
A preliminary 2010 budget was accepted.

This is only a short Version of the Fall NEC. If anyone wishes a complete copy please notify me and I will send you one..

Be Proud—Be Loud.
David Rippe

Danny Smith—National Membership Committee

NO MORE EXCUSES

Danny Smith - National Membership Committee

Over the years I have heard it all, people making excuses for not getting their squadron's membership collected, processed, and turned into Headquarters. Well I'm here to tell you that we will accept no more excuses. You should start collecting the new membership year's dues as soon as the new cards are out, usually around the end of June. Yes there are still six more months left in the current membership year, but the State and National organization work on a fiscal year that culminates with the respective levels convention. It is at that point that we need to start the collection of dues to replenish the funds of the organization. On December 31st all memberships that are not paid are delinquent and all benefits associated with the organization cease, which includes club privileges, if your Post has a club function. Therefore it is imperative that we process as many of our memberships as possible before the first of January. You will always have a small number of members that drag their feet and wait until the last minute to pay. You will also have those that are hesitant to renew their membership because they feel that it is of no benefit to them to continue their membership. The memberships that fall into these two categories are attainable you just have to work for them. Part of that is accomplished by being able to explain the purpose of the organization, the other part is just being persistent.

There is a misconception among many within this organization that it should be the National Organizations responsibility to notify members with renewal notices. It is true that the National Organization sends out renewal notices, but those are only intended as a reminder and should NOT be your primary resource for notifying your membership in the renewal process. Your membership is your responsibility and the Squadron membership team is responsible for notifying your squadron's members either by renewal notice, phone or personal contact. Whichever method you choose make your members feel that they have been and continue to be, an im-

portant part of your squadron. Encourage them to get involved, keep them informed, and educate them on the principles of this organization. Remember we are a service organization dedicated to service to the community, state and nation. This is achieved through the four pillars of service on which The American Legion was founded; veteran's affairs and rehabilitation, children and youth, Americanism and National Security.

I have computer generated renewal forms, renewal letters, recruitment letters and reinstatement letters which can be formatted to your home squadron, available for anyone who would like to use them or just see what can be done to assist in the membership process. I also have an outline on recruiting and retaining membership. If you would care for a copy of my files contact me at my e-mail ddjssmith@msn.com and I would be more than happy to send you any information I have to make your job easier. Further if you would like me to assist you personally with your squadron's membership I am willing to meet with you and help you in any way that I can. By working together we can and we will attain our membership goals.

When processing your membership remember to retain the left 2/3s, the membership card data section, of the membership card which is to be remitted with \$8.00 per member to Department Headquarters for processing. You must send in the appropriate amount with each membership before it will be processed if you have not paid the correct amount Headquarters has been instructed to hold the membership until the correct amount has been received. It's not that difficult, one membership/\$8.00, present the membership card itself to the member and send the left 2/3s, member data section of the card with \$8.00 per membership, to Department Headquarters Sons of The American Legion P.O. Box 5205 Lincoln, Nebraska 68505-0205.

Now you have the information and you have the offer for assistance so NO MORE EXCUSES!!!



WALL OF HONOR



Darrell E. Frederickson
PHM3 U.S. Navy
World War II

Detachment Commander Frederickson want every one to bring a picture or two of their family member that you base your membership to Sons of The American Legion organization on.

This will be the Wall of Honor program for part of the afternoon meeting. He want to pay tribute to our family members who have served to defend our country and our freedoms that we hold dear.

The picture on the left is Karl Frederickson dad. The right is David Kamenske dad.



Ebeart F. Kamenske
ARMY AIR CORP
World War II

2010 MID-YEAR CONFERENCE

Norfolk Lodge & Divots Conference Center

FRIDAY JANUARY 8, 2010

7:00 pm Detachment Executive Committee meeting in the Madison Room.

SATURDAY JANUARY 9, 2010

7:30 am registrations open

8:00 am American Legion General Session start with Oratorical Contest Room B & C

1:30 pm Sons of The American Legion Conference start in the Nebraska Room.

4:30 pm registrations closed

5:00 pm Catholic Mass in Room B & C

SUNDAY JANUARY 10, 2010

8:00 am Non-Denominational Religious Service in the Room B&C for The American Legion Family

9:00 am Joint Session for The American Legion Family.

American Legion Child Welfare Foundation 100% Per Capita Banner Program

The Child Welfare Foundation has initiated a new incentive program for the award year 2009-2010. Each Post, Unit, & Squadron donating a least one dollar for each member during the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation's award year will receive a beautiful banner/streamer. The banner/streamer is suitable for display in your meeting room or it may be attached to your organization colors. This is base off your membership as of June 1, 2009. The program year is June 1, 2009 to May 31, 2010. There will be a form to fill out when you send your check in to receive the award.

ADJUTANT NOTES BY HAROLD E. THOMPSON, JR.

If you have any membership please bring with you to the Mid-Year Conference. Please put them in an envelope with the number of members you have in envelope. The target is on Monday.

What have your squadron done to raise money for the Child Welfare Foundation. We are to raise \$5,500.00 by May 31, 2010. If you have any donation please bring that with you so we can see how we are doing to meet this goal.

With this newsletter is a sheet showing what the totals are on the Consolidated Squadron Report for the 2008-2009. Did your squadron send your report in. We had a good turn in last year but let's have a better turn in this year. I know we can have more reports for the 2009-2010 year.

Hope you all have a Happy Holiday seasons and Happy New Year.

FUTURE DATES

December	12	Hanukkah
	25	Christmas
January—2010	1	New Year's Day
	8-10	Mid Winter Conference at Norfolk Lodge & Suites at Divots in Norfolk, NE.
	11	60% Membership target dates for 2010 membership at Detachment headquarters
February		Americanism Month
	7	Four Chaplains' Sunday
	8	75% Membership target dates for 2010 membership at Detachment Headquarters
	14	Valentines Day
	15	Presidents' Day
March	8	80% Membership target dates for 2010 membership at Detachment Headquarters

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

January 14, 2010

I would like articles from the Detachment Commander, Sr. Vice Commander and Area Commander. National Executive Committeeman, Alt. NECman and the Committee Chairman's. If you send email please put in the subject line SAL. If any of the Squadron have up coming event they would like other squadron to know about send them to Adjutant Thompson by the deadline dates. If you have pictures. I will try to scan them into the newsletter.

Send your articles to:
Harold E. Thompson, JR.
P.O. Box 22
Wayne, NE. 68787
Email thomp@q.com
PH: 402-374-3446
Fax 402-375-2116
Attn: HAROLD

The articles are from all the Squadrons from across the state of Nebraska . Also included are National, and State American Legion Articles. The objective of this news paper is to keep all the Squadrons informed about Past, Current and up-coming events at the Squadron level, State Level and National level. This news paper belongs to all the members of the Detachment of Nebraska Sons of The American Legion.

**DETACHMENT OF NEBRASKA OFFICERS
 FOR 2009 - 2010 YEAR**

Commander	Karl Frederickson	Americanism	Randall W. Busch
SR. Commander	David Kamenske	Children & Youth / Community Affairs	Donald L. Suchy
East Area Vice Commander	Scott E. Burke	Membership	Kevin Gilliam
West Area Vice Commander	Chris L. Jenkins	Public Relations	Michael Hatfield
Chaplain	Seth A. Rippe	Veteran Affairs & Rehabilitation	William Bowman
Adjutant	Harold E. Thompson, JR.	Constitution & Bylaws	Michael D. Helm
Asst. Adjutant	Danny J. Smith	Legislative	W. Joseph Seipel
Historian	Adam W. Schmid	Finance	Lawrence J. Clancy
Finance Officer	Richard J. Vasina		
Judge Advocate	Danny J. Smith		
Sergeant at Arms	Jacob A. Helm	American Legion S.A.L. Liaison Officer	James R. Kearns
Asst. Sergeant at Arms	Tim G. Voss	American Legion Department S. A. L. Advisor	Burdette Burkhart
NECman	David L. Rippe	Sons of The American Legion	
Alt NECman	Francis L. Vail	Detachment of Nebraska	
PDC 2006-2008	Francis L. Vail	P. O. Box 5205	
PDC 2004-2006	James R. Kearns	Lincoln , NE. 68505-0205	
PDC 2002-2004	Daniel D. Dolezal	PH: 402-464-6338	