



THE VETERAN



Charles R. Doman Post 131, American Legion
Valley Springs, SD 57068

Vol. 12

Rick Larsen, Editor, December 2024

Issue 12

Rick Larsen, Legion Commander

Carol Kooi, Auxiliary President

THE AMERICAN LEGION PREAMBLE

For God and Country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes:

To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a 100-percent Americanism; to preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in all wars; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; to make right the master of might; to promote peace and good will on earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy; to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.



From the Editor

December is a month to slow down Legion activities to give all members a chance to enjoy the holidays with their families. Things start in January for fundraisers, Military History, and other activities. Inside are updates on joining the Chamber of Commerce and the flagpole project for all service branches. Wishing all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Rick Larsen - Editor

Free Motorized Scooter

Wanted: a tall veteran that could use a motorized scooter. It is set up for a tall person. Cost is free! Contact Pastor Jerry Merkouris or Rick Larsen if you need one.

Pledge of Allegiance

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Contacts

Legion—Email info@vslegion.org

Commander: Rick Larsen—(605) 553-5990

ricksfsd@gmail.com

Vice Commander: Roger Kooi-(605)757-7010

dutchwoman@alliancecom.net

Adjutant/Finance Officer-Ken Bodewitz

(605)757-6270 kwbode@aol.com

Chaplain: Position Open

Sergeant-At-Arms: Steve Baatz-(605) 951-2842

baatzsj@icloud.com

Historical Programs: Jerry Merkouris-(605)582-7019

19gmc59@gmail.com

Legion Hall Rentals: Rick Larsen—(605) 553-5990

ricksfsd@gmail.com

Auxiliary

President: Carol Kooi, (605) 757-7010

dutchwoman@alliancecom.net

Vice President: Phyllis Lunstra (605) 757-6247

jplunstra@alliancecom.net

Secretary/Treasurer: Alice Jacobson, (605) 351-8226

alicepsalm461@gmail.com

Chaplain: Kathy Stelzer (605) 332-1820

k8hstelzer@gmail.com

Membership Chair: Phyllis Lunstra (605) 757-6247

jplunstra@alliancecom.net

Sons—Email SAL.vssd@gmail.com

Commander: Terry Holm – (605)321-6230

terry.holm@fmc.com

Vice Commander: Davyd Labata – (605)310-2381

davyd2426@gmail.com

Adjutant: Brian Ternus – (605)214-0670

bdternus@gmail.com

Finance Officer: Ken Bodewitz—(605)757-6270

kwbode@aol.com

Chaplain: Terence Carmody – (605)610-6424

tmcarmody@midco.net

Sergeant -At-Arms: Sam Johnson – (605)553-8534

Johnsonsam136@gmail.com

From the Commander

The following notes are from the Post meeting held on November 18th at 7 pm. The group reviewed the Veterans Day Program. There were 68 people present at the event. The meal charge covered the expenses for the program. We will keep the meal cost for next year at \$10 for adults and \$6 for 11 years old and below.

Planning for the Feather Party on Saturday, November 23rd continued. The Legion Hall will be set up on Friday morning for the party. The turkeys and hams will be picked up Saturday morning before noon.

The November 17th Military History program on World War 1 was excellent. The next program will be on January 19th at 6:30 pm. The topic will be announced. The Post has applied for associate membership to the Chamber of Commerce. We applied as, Post 131 American Legion, Auxiliary, Sons. Adjutant Ken will be the point of contact. We will work to add our group to the Chamber sign at the entrance of Valley Springs. Monte's Woodshop will make the sign.

Adding six flag poles to the front of our Legion Post was discussed. Ken will watch for the best price for flag poles, coordinate the cost with the Auxiliary, and then order the poles. The poles will be installed in the spring of 2025 once weather permits. Ken will also order two sets of flags. Ron Kuipers has offered to drill the holes for the flag poles, thank you Ron! We will do utility locates before starting the project. The Auxiliary is funding this project with memorial funds.

The Post received a memorial in remembrance of Ed Vermeer. Additional funds are coming this week. An update to follow.

Rick Larsen, Post Commander



Auxiliary President's Report

The American Legion Auxiliary met at 1 PM on November 18th. Opening exercises were held and then previous agenda items were discussed: The Legion will be responsible for the poles and flags in front of Legion building and will begin the project in the spring 2025, The Commander is waiting for more information on signage outside of Valley Springs and will report when news is available. The Auxiliary will again wrap gifts for Helping Hands that are provided by Sioux Falls VA. Volunteer opportunities are available at the Sioux Falls VA on December 2nd and 3rd to assist inpatient veterans shop for family Christmas gifts. Carol attended the District 7 meeting in Dell Rapids and gave an updated report. Coins will be collected at each units meeting to be turned in to Legion Headquarters at end of fiscal year for an emergency fund for members that need assistance (such as flood victims). The Legion Feather Party is this Saturday, November 23rd. Auxiliary will sell food ala a cart. Raffle tickets for Auxiliary and Legion are available for purchase. An end of year wrap up meeting will be held in the next several weeks and then next meeting will be in March, 2025.

Carol Kooi – Auxiliary President

December is a month off from fundraisers. The next Soup Supper will be in January 2025. Stay tuned for more details in the January newsletter.

A Military History program was held at the Valley Springs American Legion on Sunday, November 17th, at 6:30 p.m. Left photo: Kari Beck presenting: "World War I: America prepares for the Great War." Right photo: 35 people enjoyed the presentation.



Veterans Day 2024



Top photo: Veterans Day was well attended by 68 people. Bottom left: the meal blessing and opening prayer was given by Sons Chaplain Terry Carmody. Bottom right: thank you to Elizabeth Leidholt for singing the Star Spangled Banner and to Claudia Abraham for playing the piano for the event. Not pictured: our guest speaker, Colonel (Ret.) Mike Meyers did an excellent job!

Legion Hall Rentals

24-hour Rentals (midnight to midnight)

Large Room	\$180 per day
Small Room	\$120 per day
Large/Small Room	\$300 per day

24-hour time includes setup and cleanup.

6-hour Rentals

Large Room	\$90
Small Room	\$60
Large/Small Room	\$150

6-hour time includes setup and cleanup.

Set Up Day Before/Clean Up Day After

Large Room	\$ 90 per day
Small Room	\$ 60 per day
Large/Small Room	\$150 per day

A cleaning and sanitizing crew is available to cleanup after the event for \$150. The cleanup crew time is outside the rental hours.

A consumption permit is required for serving alcohol during the rental. The permit is applied for at Valley Springs City Hall and needs to be approved by the City Commission at a Commission Meeting before the event. There is no cost.

December 2024

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16 Meetings Auxiliary 1 PM Sons 6 PM Legion 7 PM	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 	26	27	28
29	30	31 				

Our Post dues are a low \$40 per year. Auxiliary dues are \$30 (senior) and \$5 (junior) per year. Sons of the American Legion dues are \$20 per year.

It Is Not The Price You Pay For Membership, It Is The Price You Paid To Be Eligible To Join; It Is The Value Of Being A Member.



CHARLES R. DOMAN POST 131

P.O. BOX 189—615 Broadway

VALLEY SPRINGS, SD 57068-0189

