



THE VETERAN



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

Vol. 14

Rick Larsen, Editor, February 2026

Issue 2

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

We are past the halfway point of winter, and daylight is growing longer each day! Inside you will find the notes from the January Legion Meeting, the January Soup Supper results, the February American Legion Baseball pancake breakfast, a membership update is provided for both the Legion and the Sons of the American Legion, and a peek at our next remodel project. Hope all have a wonderful Valentines Day!

Rick Larsen - Editor

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

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: Melinda Johnson
johnson@alliancecom.net
Sergeant-At-Arms: Carl Johnson
johnson@alliancecom.net
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
Treasurer: Lory Johansen, (605) 360-9587
mediclojo@gmail.com
Secretary: Lory Johansen, (605) 360-9587
mediclojo@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

Post 131 held the monthly Legion meeting on January 19th at 7 pm. Bill Peters was the special guest at the meeting. Bill is running for the 2026-2027 Department Commander position. Bill offers clear communication, responsiveness, and respect. He served as the Department Membership Chair for the last three years.

The January Soup Supper was reviewed. The gross revenue was \$331.80; expenses were \$179.39 leaving \$152.41 going to the remodel fund. Chuck Doom prepared the walleye chowder soup and donated the soup to the Post. An area farmer donated the hamburger for the chili. Thank you to both of you, your contributions do make a difference. The next soup supper will be on March 12, 2025. Lory Johansen will be the guest soup maker. She will prepare a white chicken chili soup.

The American Legion Baseball Pancake Breakfast is on Sunday, February 22nd. Preparations start at 6:30 am with serving from 8 am to 1 pm. Cleanup will be finished by 2 pm. Volunteers are welcome to work any or all hours. The Coach for our Legion Senior and Junior teams will be contacted requesting baseball players work in the dining room. This provides the opportunity for the community to meet the players. Brandon Post 318 will be contacted requesting 3 helpers. We will serve pancakes, French toast, sausage links, scrambled eggs, orange drink, and coffee.

The January Military History Program was yesterday evening, Lieutenant Colonel (Ret.) Reid Christopherson did an excellent job on the Army Air base in Sioux Falls during WW II. Many of the buildings from the base have been moved and are still in use. The closed Valley Springs Hospital (now apartments on the corner of Cliff Avenue and Valley Drive) was one of the buildings moved. Kari Beck will be giving a Military History presentation on "Little Big Horn " on February 15, at 6:30 p.m.

Our Post membership renewals for 2026 are at 93.50% having 73 renewals with the goal of 78. We will keep working to meet or exceed the goal. Our Sons of the American Legion Squadron is at 23 renewals and one new member. The next Minnehaha County Legion meeting will be held at a later date after the District 7 Spring Legion meeting. The District 7 meeting will be on March 28th at Sioux Falls Post 15 at 3 pm or after the

arrival of the Department Officers from the District 8 Legion meeting held earlier that day.

Humboldt Sharpshooters will hold a grand opening on January 30, 2026, at 6:30 pm. The MidWinter Legion conference is at Oacoma, February 19-22, 2026. The SD American Legion Department College is April 18-19, 2026. This will be held in Oacoma, SD.

Adjutant Ken recommended that we replace the Post electrical panels as our next remodel project. A bid for this work will be requested from an electrical company, and we will do this project when the remodel funds can support this.

Rick Larsen – Post Commander



American Legion Baseball Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser Sunday, February 22, 2026 8 am—1 pm

Come join us for our annual pancake breakfast and support our Brandon Valley Legion baseball teams. Team players will help out in the dining room serving food. This will give all a chance for all to meet and visit with the players. Working in the kitchen will be the Valley Springs Post 131 and Brandon Post 318 Legion members. All profits will go to support the 2026 registration and insurance cost for both the Senior and Junior teams. A 50/50 raffle will be held during the event at \$1 a chance.

Pancakes, French toast, sausage links, scrambled eggs, coffee, orange drink, and water will be served. A free will donation for the breakfast will be accepted.

Military History



A Military History program took place at the Valley Springs American Legion on Sunday, January 18th.

Lieutenant Colonel Reid Christopherson USAF (Ret.) gave a presentation on the history of the U.S. Army Air Corps base in Sioux Falls during WWII.

Kari Beck will be giving a presentation on "Little Big Horn" on February 15, at 6:30 p.m.



Military History
Sunday, February 15, 2025
6:30 pm

Join us at the Valley Springs American Legion hall for the February military history program. Kari Beck will be giving a presentation on "Little Big Horn". This is open to the public and is free. Refreshments will be served and there will be time for questions and answers. See you there!

Sons Adjutant Report

The Sons of the American Legion Squadron 131 meeting was held on January 19, 2026, at 6:00pm. Membership status was reviewed by the group. We added one new member and have just a few who still need to renew.

SAL members are encouraged to help with the Pancake breakfast on February 22 that benefits Legion baseball. Breakfast will be served from 8am to 1pm. Anyone who is able to help setup can arrive as early as 6:30 am. Help would also be appreciated for the next soup supper to be held on March 12th.

The meeting was adjourned.

Brian Ternus - Squadron Adjutant

Happy
Valentine's
Day

February 2026

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1	2	3	4	5	6 Breakfast 8 am	7
8	9	10	11	12	13 Breakfast 8 am	14 
15 Military History 6:30 pm	16 <u>Meetings</u> Sons 6 pm Legion 7 pm	17	18	19	20 Breakfast 8 am	21
22 Pancake Breakfast 8 am—1 pm	23	24	25	26	27 Breakfast 8 am	28

Our Post dues are a low \$45 per year. Auxiliary dues are \$30 (senior) and \$5 (junior) per year. Sons of the American Legion dues are \$25 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

