



THE VETERAN



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

Vol. 13

Rick Larsen, Editor, April 2025

Issue 4

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.



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.

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From the Editor

Please note that the soup supper and the Military History night have been moved to the first week of April. This was done to accommodate the City election and the Easter season. Other updates include the Chamber sign at the north entrance to Valley Springs and the six new flag poles will appear during April. We are making a final effort to get membership renewals for both the Legion and Sons. Reports are inside this edition on the Auxiliary, Sons and Legion meetings.

Rick Larsen— Editor

Auxiliary

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From the Commander

The following notes are from the March 17th Legion Meeting. The February Baseball Pancake Breakfast raised just under \$600 to support the Brandon Valley American Legion baseball teams. The March Soup Supper fundraiser profit was just over \$360 with those proceeds going to the Post remodeling fund. April 3rd will be the last Soup Supper for this spring. Serving times are 5-6:30 pm. May will start barbeque fundraisers.

Automania is scheduled for Saturday, June 28th. A color guard has been requested at 12 noon. Sioux Falls Post 15 will join us for this event. More information to come! The final spring Military History will be on Sunday, April 6th starting at 6:30 pm. The program will start again this fall.

The District 7 spring meeting is Sunday, May 30th at the Garretson Legion Hall. The social starts at 11 am, lunch at 12 pm, and the meeting at 1 pm. The current membership is at 73 members with the goal of 76 members putting at 96.05% of our goal. A final review of those that have not renewed will be undertaken.

The Auxiliary has approved the purchase of 6 flag poles with solar lights at a cost of \$4,020. These will be purchased from Sioux Falls Post 15. Two of each flag needs to be purchased for a total of 12 flags. A lift is being coordinated to paint the old flagpole. The Chamber of Commerce sign at the north entrance of Valley Springs will be updated in April to include Post 131 American Legion Auxiliary Sons to include each logo. A preview of the sign will be emailed out.

The nominations for Post officers closed with each position having one person nominated. The officers were approved. The officers are Commander – Rick Larsen, Vice Commander – Roger Kooi, Adjutant/Finance Officer – Ken Bodewitz, Chaplain – Melinda Johnson, Sergeant at Arms – Carl Johnson, and Historical Programs – Jerry Merkouris.

Brandon Post 318 let us know that there is a request by the BVBA for a baseball tournament on August 11th at First National Bank Stadium. We will put this on our calendar and wait for additional details. The Legion baseball teams were registered and insured for the next season at a cost of \$914. The IRS Form 990 is filed for 2024. Post 318 has one request for Boys State and one for the Youth Trooper Academy. Roger made the motion and Melissa seconded that we

send Post 318 a check for \$250 to pay the Youth Trooper Academy. The motion carried.

The Auxiliary has voted to pay one-half of our property insurance. Thank you to the Auxiliary for their support of the Post!

The Post will consider purchasing more dress uniforms at a future meeting.

Rick Larsen – Post Commander

Auxiliary President's Report

The Auxiliary meeting was held on March 17, 1PM at the Legion Hall. Once the meeting commenced, the exercises were completed, and the secretary and treasurer reports were read and approved. A discussion was held regarding officers for the coming year, final decisions will be made in April. President will send in mandatory reports with secretary in charge of tax report and membership chairwoman will send in her report.

An update was given on signage to be placed outside of town, should be completed in April. Discussion was held on flagpoles that will be placed in front of Legion. Motion made and carried that Auxiliary would pay for six solar flagpoles. The Legion is responsible install the flag poles. Motion made and carried that auxiliary would pay for half of insurance on Legion Hall. Discussion was held regarding paying half of a table at Girls State, motion made to pay half. The motion carried.

Next month the Auxiliary will finalize plans for Memorial Day dinner and poppy donations and distribution of cans. April is military child's month. A table will be set up at the Legion with information on military child's flower and color, along with information that March 21 is Rosie the Riveter Day.

We would like to thank Kathy and friend for making beautiful aprons for the Auxiliary to wear on special occasions ! Thank you!

If you are interested in joining, we meet every third Monday at 1PM at the Legion Hall. Contact any auxiliary member if you are interested. Most importantly we thank all our veterans and active military members who have and continue to provide our freedom!

Carol Kooi – Auxiliary President



Top photo: Commander Rick Larsen presents Legionnaire Al Bodewitz with his 50-years continuous membership certificate. Below: Kari Beck presents the April 16th Military History program. Thirty eight people attended the event.



Top photo: many supported the Soup Supper fundraiser! Below: the volunteers are important to the success of the event. Thanks you!



**Military History Night
Sunday, April 6th—6:30 pm**

Join us at the Legion Hall for the last Military History night of this spring. Col. (Ret.) Mike Meyers will be the guest speaker and the topic is Naval Aviation. The event is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

**Soup Supper Fundraiser
Thursday, April 3rd 5-6:30 pm**

Join us for the last soup supper of the spring. Chili, bean and ham, and potato (Mindy's Lent offering) soups will be served along with hot dogs, corn muffins, chips, sodas, water and condiments. A free will donation will be taken and all profits go into the Post remodeling fund. Preparations start at 2 pm.

Son's Adjutant Report

The Sons of the American Legion Squadron 131 meeting was held on March 17th, 2025, at 6:00 pm. Membership dues were discussed, and 5 Sons membership renewals were made during the meeting with more soon. Next month's activities were discussed with SAL members encouraged to attend to assist, if able.

Thursday, April 3rd at 5pm is the next Soup Supper and Sunday, April 6th at 6:30 pm is the next Military History Night. Colonel Michael A. Myers (Ret.) will be the speaker. Automania is on Saturday, June 28th 12 noon to 4 pm. SAL members are encouraged to be at the Legion during Automania to speak with anyone that may be interested in additional information on our squadron.

The District 7 meeting is on March 30th in Garretson. The meeting will begin at 1:00. pm. There is a separate meeting for SAL members to attend. Other news included that our income tax has been filed as noted in the Post meeting notes.

Brian Ternus - Squadron Adjutant

April 2025

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

		1	2	3 Soup Supper Fundraiser 5-6:30 PM	4 Breakfast 8 am	5
6 Military History 6:30 pm	7	8 City Election	9	10	11 Breakfast 8 am	12
13	14	15	16	17	18 	19
20 	21 Meetings Auxiliary 1 pm Sons 6 pm Legion 7 pm	22	23	24	25 Breakfast 8 am	26
27	28	29	30			

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

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