

Americanism Gazette



American Legion
Post 318
Brandon, SD

June 2015 Highlights

- > New Commander installed.
- > We are meeting all year round now—1st Tuesday.
- > August Raffle tickets available to buy. Fund-raiser for EROS Veterans Tour Day on September 26th.
- > State Convention in Huron.

New Commander for Post 318 installed on June 2nd meeting.

Brandon American Legion Post 318 installed a new Commander on June 2nd at the VFW in Brandon. The new Commander is Nylis "Gene" Renschler II from Brandon. Our new Commander goes

mander.

Gene retired from the US Army in May 2014. He served in both the US Army and the US Air Force for a total of over 20 years. He is married to his wife Marita and they have 7 children. The new Commander graduated from Vermillion High School class of '83.

"Our Post is not as old as most of the others in the County, but that should not stop us from trying to make our Post the best in the County!" said Gene Renschler.

The new Commander assured the membership, at his installation, that change was coming in small ways, but that our cooperation with the VFW, Legion Auxiliary, and Valley Springs Post 131 will be maintained and increased in some cases. He says the motto for the year is "Get one for the Team".

New Commander Installation.



by his middle name so feel free to call him Gene. He has been a member of Post 318 since September 2014 and is also the Minnehaha County Vice Com-

The Commander has plans for this post and is committed to increasing membership and comradery in the very short future. He has made it his mission to increase our Post membership by 50% this year. You will see him out in the community more and more this year to increase awareness and foster more Americanism in our community.

New Newsletter and our first issue.

Well this is not something new at this Post but it has been a long time since we had a newsletter. I wanted to get this going again so we could get more information out to everyone that could not make the meeting. Some of you may think we do not do much around the Post, but we are getting more active all the time and could use your support with some of our activities. I hope by

getting this information out to you that you might consider getting a little bit involved once in a while. I believe in this organization and I believe in our Veterans so we will make this newsletter happen and work hard at keeping you informed.

Any ideas for information or articles you would like to see please let me know.

co@bvlegion.org or give me a call at 215-1083.

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Don Branson receives 2nd Place for his Post history scrapbook.



Huron, SD was the site of the 97th Department Convention from June 25th—June 28th. This year Post 318 received a ribbon for reaching 100% of our membership goal by Mid-Winter Convention in February and our very own Historian Don Branson received 2nd Place award for his presentation of our Post history for the year in a scrap book. Congratulations to Don for his hard work.

At the Convention we had several

Law makers as guest speakers. Sen. Thune spoke Friday night at the banquet and US Senator Mike Rounds spoke, during Saturdays opening greetings, on some key issues concerning veterans in South Dakota. The most memorable speech and presentation came from South Dakota Representative Kristi Noem, when she presented the Purple Heart to Korean War veteran Donald Hausmann of Bonesteel. Her work in helping him get this medal after 62 years was quite a

sight to see.

To no ones surprise Tim Hansen was elected Department Commander for this coming year. Gary Henle from Sioux Falls was also elected Vice Commander for Districts 3-8.

Newly elected Department Officers.



“This will be a great experience for all veterans” said Commander Renschler

EROS Veterans Tour Day

Located just north of Sioux Falls near Garretson is a little known treasure trove of land imagery called the US Geological Survey Earth Resource Observation Science center otherwise known as EROS. This site



houses over 12 million frames of film and one of the nations largest digital archive of land cover photos. Post 318 is hosting a tour and presentation for all veterans on the 26th of September 2015. “This will be a great experience for all

veterans” said Commander Renschler.

It is very important that you register by sending your RSVP to info@bvlegion.org or calling the Commander at 605-215-1083.

There will also be a guest speaker from Hickam AFB, HI AL Blankenship (MSgt Ret.). He currently

August Raffle Fundraiser

Post 318 is selling raffle tickets and giving away \$1,000 in August to help support bringing the guest speaker here for the EROS veterans tour on 26th of September. The tickets sell for \$20 and you have 5 chances at \$200 a week in August. The monies raised will also go to new membership activities.

To buy a ticket just email the

Commander at co@bvlegion.org or call 215-1083. You can also ask any of the Post officers as well.

We would appreciate the help selling as well, so if you would like to help in this fundraiser just give the Commander a call.

The Commander and Don Branson sold over 45 tickets at the

State Convention, but we still need to sell over 200 tickets to hit our goal of 300.



C-119 Flying Boxcar preparing to “Catch a Fallen Star”

Adjutants Report for June 2nd Meeting

We did not have the Adjutants report in time to publish, but it will be included monthly starting in July. Sorry for the inconvenience.

Remember register for the EROS veterans tour day at

info@bvlegion.org

Or call the Commander at

215-1083.



US Senator Mike Rounds speaking at the SD Department Convention

New meeting location starting in August

It was voted on in the June meeting to move the meeting location to the Brandon Steak House starting in August 2015. We will try this out for this year in order to help attempt to get our identity as the American Legion back in this community.

Our post will continue to sponsor and participate in joint activities

with the Brandon VFW and Valley Springs Post 131. We do not plan on changing that, but we might be adding some of our own also this year.

“Post 318 will be moving their meeting location to the Brandon Steak House starting in August 2015”

July Events

3rd—Sunshine Foods Recruiting / Sales Table 9am-12pm

4th—Independence Day

11th—Sunshine Foods Recruiting / Sales Table 9am-12pm

11th—Valley Springs parade 7pm

17th—Valley Springs BBQ 4:30—7pm

18th—Sunshine Foods Recruiting / Sales Table 9am-12pm

23rd—Newsletter articles deadline.

24th—Valley Springs Bingo 7pm

Representative Kristi Noem speaking at the Department Convention



Check us out on the Web.
www.bvlegion.org

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American Legion
Post 318, Brandon, SD

Veterans Serving Veterans



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Community Awareness

As the new Commander of Post 318, I will be out in the community more and more in the near future. You will see me most Saturdays at the Sunshine Foods where I will have our new recruiting table setup. We will be selling the August raffle tickets as well.

Our Post needs this kind of exposure to get the word out to those veterans that are not members of the VFW or our post and remind the community of who we are and what we do for the community and veterans.

The American Legion is the nation's largest and most powerful organization of US wartime veterans and their families. Our Post supports closely Children and Youth, Americanism and American Legion Baseball.

I know we could do more if only we got more membership and members became more active once again. Most of the current membership has seen this Post slowly decline in the number of things we do, well that is going to change.

This Post will grow and activities

will increase this year as this is one of my missions.

My slogan this year is "Get one for the Team". I know this might sound corny, but it is true we can double our size this year if each and everyone gets just one new member or transfer to us.

Commanders challenge: Anyone who beats me in new memberships or transfers by January 31st I will take them and their significant other out to a stake dinner at the Brandon Steak House!



Your new Commander out recruiting 2 new members and selling 15 raffle tickets.