

FIRST TARGET DATE FALL DISTRICT MEETINGS

October 2009

District Award(s) – A portable DVD Player will be awarded to each District that has 100% of the Posts within that District represented by members from the Posts in attendance at that District's 2009 Fall District Meeting. (This represents the first part of the video training package.)

The second part of the video training equipment package is available on the Legion Birthday Target Date.

DAKOTA DREAM POST

The Dakota Dream Post program will identify those American Legion Posts in the Department of South Dakota which are truly taking care of their members and working the programs of The American Legion.

Listed below are 25 items which have been identified as being present in a Dream Post. In order to qualify for this award, your Post must satisfy 20 of the 26 listed items on the criteria listing. **Those items that are flagged with a star are required items that must be satisfied.** If these 7 mandatory items are not accomplished – your Post is not eligible – DO NOT SUBMIT AN APPLICATION.

Posts that qualify for the Dakota Dream Post designation will receive a specially designed plaque that can be displayed in their Post Home. Posts must apply for the designation by **May 21**, 2010. The Dakota Dream Post Plaques will be awarded at the Department Convention.

- _★Exceed last year's membership by May 21, 2010 (exceed last year's membership – not goal)
- _★Post member(s) attend District Meetings
- _★Pay State Convention Delegate Fees
- _★Have Post Officers certified by May 21, 2010
- _★Post Officer must attend a Veterans Forum
- _★Submit Consolidated Post Report on time
- _★Post Constitution and Bylaws on file at Department Headquarters
- _Have an Auxiliary Unit
- _Have a newsletter and belong to SDALPA
- _Send delegate(s) to Boys State
- _Provide flag etiquette training to youth group
- _Post member(s) attend State Convention
- _Post member(s) attend Midwinter Conference
- _Submit Post Americanism Report on time
- _Submit Post Data Form on time
- _Post member(s) complete American Legion Extension Institute
- _Post selected a Legionnaire of the Year and submitted nomination to the District Commander
- _Hold regular meetings (summer off is ok)
- _Post participates in Go Getter program
- _Post participates in patriotic holiday observances (Veterans Day, Memorial Day)
- _Post participates with honor guard or firing squad at veterans' funerals
- _Have Post Home or regular meeting place
- _Conduct VAVS activities (voluntary service or donations)
- _Post supports Children and Youth programs (Special Olympics/CWF/Childrens Miracle Network)
- _Post sponsors family activities.
- _Post has a first time Post Commander

TARGET DATE - VETERANS DAY

November 17, 2009

TO QUALIFY, MEMBERSHIP CARDS AND CERTIFICATIONS MUST BE IN STATE HEADQUARTERS ON OR BEFORE TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2009.

Individual Award - Every member who has paid his/her 2010 membership dues and has those dues into State Headquarters by November 17th will be eligible to be entered into a drawing to be awarded a desk size set of flags (5 service flags and the US Flag). One name from each District will be drawn and presented with this award.

Recruiter Award - Everyone who recruits a new 2010 member by November 12th will have the recruiter's name entered into a drawing for the award of a Legion wristwatch. The recruiter's name will be entered into the drawing one time for each new member recruited.

The Post adjutant or membership chairman will be responsible for reporting the names of the recruiters to State Headquarters for all new members recruited. If memberships and recruiters' names are not forwarded in a timely manner, the recruiter's name will not be in the drawing.

District Membership Chairman's Award - A desk size set of flags (5 service flags and the US Flag) will go to each District Membership Chairman who has no "goose egg" Posts and has enrolled at least 75 percent of his/her District's 2010 membership goal by the above target date.

Post Award – A suitable award plaque will go to all Posts that have met their assigned 2010 membership goal and has that membership transmitted to State Headquarters by the above target date.

STATE COMMANDER'S CAP PINS

Commander Martens has decided that he will use his Special State Commander Cap Pins to award membership recruitment and participation in Specific Legion Programs.

Every member in good standing of The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary or Sons of The American Legion who signs up ONE NEW 2010 MEMBER or reinstates ONE MEMBER whose membership in the organization has lapsed (was not a member in 2009), will be awarded one of Commander Martens unique cap pins. Only one cap pin will be awarded to a recruiter.

In order to qualify for the award, the Post Adjutant of the Post that the new or reinstated member is signed up in must certify the recruiter to State Headquarters. The Post Adjutant must complete the State Commander's Cap Pin Certification Form (CCP Form 01-2010) and forward it with the required information to State Headquarters, PO Box 67, Watertown, SD 57201. Multiple awards may be listed on the same certification form.

State Commander Martens will award Special State Commander Cap Pins for the following participation in The American Legion Programs: (Certification is required from the Post Adjutant)

One Special State Commander Cap Pin to each Legionnaire who participates in conducting a Local, District, Area or State High School Oratorical Contest.

One Special State Commander Cap Pin to each Legionnaire in a Post who participates in the process of interviewing and choosing the Post's Boys State Delegates or conducts a Boys State Orientation within his/her District.

One Special State Commander Cap Pin to each Legionnaire who participates in the presentation of military rites at a veteran's funeral.

One Special State Commander Cap Pin to each Legionnaire who participates in making American Legion Baseball successful in your community. This Legionnaire must work in the program – this award is not for going to the game as a spectator.

T A R G E T D A T E - P E A R L H A R B O R D A Y - D e c e m b e r 9 , 2 0 0 9

TO QUALIFY, MEMBERSHIP CARDS MUST BE IN STATE HEADQUARTERS ON OR BEFORE TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2009.

County Commander’s Award – This award will only be awarded to those County Commanders who hold regular county meetings; the District Commander must certify that the County holds regular County Meetings. An award will go to the County Commander in each of the four goal-size groups listed below that has enrolled the highest percentage of assigned membership goal for 2010 by the above listed target date.

Counties with goal of: 15 to 199; 200 to 349; 350 to 549; 550 and larger

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T A R G E T D A T E - N A T I O N A L M I D W I N T E R - J a n u a r y 1 3 , 2 0 1 0

TO QUALIFY, MEMBERSHIP CARDS AND CERTIFICATIONS MUST BE IN STATE HEADQUARTERS ON OR BEFORE TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2010.

Special recognition for early Go-Getters - All Department Go-Getters who are certified to State Headquarters by their Post Adjutants by this target date will be entitled to attend the Go-Getters reception held at the Midwinter Conference. Each Go-Getter so certified will be able to claim his/her special card at the Midwinter Conference. (Post Adjutants must use blue certification Form GG No. 1 - 2010.)

First Time Go-Getters - Each Legionnaire who qualifies, for the first time, to be a Go-Getter is entitled to the award above, plus a special First Time Go-Getters cap pin. (Post Adjutants must indicate First Time Go-Getter status on blue certification form GG No. 1-2010.)

Post Award - A special award will go to all Posts with five or more consecutive years at or beyond 90 percent of goal, including 2009, by this target date. Plaques and framed citations will be awarded for 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, and 50 consecutive years with attachments awarded for each intermediate year.

Honor Ribbon Award - A Post honor ribbon will be awarded to all Posts whose 2010 membership by this target date exceeds the total 2009 membership.

Meritorious Service Certificate - A Post will receive a certificate of meritorious service for equaling or surpassing its previous all-time high membership by this target date.

District Commander’s Award - An appropriate award will go to each District Commander whose District has no “goose egg” Posts and the District has enrolled at least 90 percent of its assigned 2010 membership goal by this target date.

Area Vice Commander’s Award – An appropriate award will go to each Area Vice Commander whose Area has enrolled at least 90 percent of its assigned 2010 membership by this target date.

T A R G E T D A T E
Presidents Day
February 10, 2010

TO QUALIFY, MEMBERSHIP CARDS MUST BE IN STATE HEADQUARTERS ON OR BEFORE FEBRUARY 10, 2010.

Area Award - An award will go to the State Vice Commander whose Area has a 2010 membership that is the highest percentage over 95% of that Area's 2010 membership goal by this target date.

District Commanders and Area Vice Commanders who have placed the highest bid in their category and reached their membership percentage bids, that were made at the July 2009 Executive Committee Meeting, by this target date will receive \$250 in cash to be used for the District or Area program or project of their choosing.

Post Award – An “ALL FOUR ONE” award will be presented to every Post that has attained 100% of its 2010 membership by this date.

2009-2010 SPECIAL AWARD – WIN A PUFL

The South Dakota Legionnaire who recruits the most new or reinstated members for The American Legion Department of South Dakota will be rewarded with a Paid-Up-For-Life Membership. The contest will include only those members recruited for the 2009 membership year. The Post Adjutant must certify the name of the recruiter along with a complete listing of the names and addresses of each and every new or reinstated member that the Legionnaire being certified for the award recruited to State Headquarters. The deadline for certifying the recruiters name and the information on those recruited to State Headquarters in Watertown is coincident with the 2010 South Dakota American Legion MidWinter Conference or February 10, 2010.

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T A R G E T D A T E
A M E R I C A N L E G I O N B I R T H D A Y
M A R C H 1 0 , 2 0 1 0

TO QUALIFY, MEMBERSHIP CARDS AND CERTIFICATIONS MUST BE IN STATE HEADQUARTERS ON OR BEFORE TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2010.

District Membership Award - A \$250 cash award will go to the District in each of the two goal-size categories that has enrolled, by this target date for 2010, the highest percentage over 95% of that District's goal.* (The money is to be used for a District project, program, or even as directed by the District Executive Committee.)

Category “A” - Districts 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, and 14
Category “B” - Districts 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13

Convention Hall Seating - District delegations will be assigned seating area in the convention hall in order of assigned membership goal by The American Legion Birthday Target Date.

Post Go-Getter Medallion - Each Post that reaches or exceeds 95 percent of its assigned 2010 membership goal by The American Legion Birthday Target Date will receive a Post Go-Getter Medallion.

LEGION BIRTHDAY TARGET CONTINUED

Parade Banners - The Post with the highest percentage of assigned membership goal by The American Legion Birthday will be awarded a large banner to carry in a lead position in the convention parade, following distinguished guests and state officers. Posts in each of the other four Veterans Day goal-size groups making the highest percentage of assigned membership goal by this date will be awarded placards to carry in honor position in the parade behind the leader in the order of percentage attained. A large banner is also awarded to the District with the highest percentage of its assigned membership goal by this date to carry following the five leading Posts. (In the event that there is no convention parade – plaques will be awarded.)

Department Recruiter of the Year - The top new recruiter, properly certified by the Post Adjutant, will be awarded a trophy with his/her accomplishment inscribed thereon. This award is based on The American Legion's Birthday Target Date, March 10, 2010. Each Department winner will be entered into the national "Recruiter of the Year" with the top recruiter receiving one of 26 exciting awards - the top one being an expense-paid trip to the 2010 National Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

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CHILDREN AND YOUTH TARGET DATE APRIL 14, 2010

State Go-Getter Award – Every Legionnaire certified by his/her Post Adjutant by this target date as having enrolled the prescribed number of 2010 members will be a State Go-Getter and receive a Go-Getter card entitling him/her to admission to the Go-Getter smorgasbord at the State Convention. (Post Adjutants must use blue certification form GG No. 2-2010)

<u>POST GOAL</u>	<u>NUMBER OF MEMBERS EACH GO-GETTER MUST ENROLL</u>
15-74	4, ONE OF WHICH WAS NOT A LEGIONNAIRE IN 2009 OR 6 RENEWALS
75-124	6, ONE OF WHICH WAS NOT A LEGIONNAIRE IN 2009 OR 9 RENEWALS
125- 199	9, TWO OF WHICH WEREN'T LEGIONNAIRES IN 2009 OR 13 RENEWALS
200-299	11, TWO OF WHICH WEREN'T LEGIONNAIRES IN 2009 OR 16 RENEWALS
300 AND UP	14, THREE OF WHICH WEREN'T LEGIONNAIRES IN 2009 OR 20 RENEWALS

Special Go-Getter Recognition - Go-Getters enrolling 25, 50, 75, and 100 members are eligible for special recognition. First time Go-Getters will receive a special cap pin.

Continuous Go-Getter Award - Legionnaires with five or more consecutive years as a Go-Getter, including 2010, will receive an award signifying this record. (5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, and 50 years).

Special Award for the District Commander who has the highest percentage, above 75%, of the Posts within his/her District nominating Post Legionnaires of the Year for District recognition.

District Award – Each District Commander who has visited each and every Post in his/her District will be awarded a 19" Flat Panel Monitor to be used in the District. Post visitations will be certified on a form that will list the date of the visit, the topic(s) covered and will be signed by the Post Commander of the Post visited. District Vice Commanders and Area Vice Commanders may also be utilized to make these visits. The same documentation will be required. All Post visitations must be accomplished by **May 10th, 2010**. Speaking engagements for special events such as Veterans and Memorial Day will not be counted. The visits must be at a regular Post Meeting. County Meetings may be counted – but only for the Post that is hosting the meeting. This is the second part of the video training package.

ARMED FORCES DAY May 12, 2010

TO QUALIFY, MEMBERSHIP CARDS MUST BE IN STATE HEADQUARTERS ON OR BEFORE May 12, 2010.

District Commander's Award - Every District Commander with a 2010 District membership by this target date that equals or exceeds that District's membership at the 2009 State Convention delegate strength target date will receive an award from the State Commander.

Area Award - The Area Vice Commander with a total Area membership for 2010 by this target date that is the highest percentage of the Area's assigned membership goal will receive an award from the State Commander.

Consecutive Years All-Time High Post Award - A citation will be awarded to each Post that has five or more consecutive years at all-time high membership by this target date. Posts with more than five years consecutive all-time high performance will receive a citation from National Headquarters for each year that it continues to register an all-time high.

District Commander Achievement Award - This award is earned by each District Commander whose District membership exceeds its 2009 membership by at least one per Post. The award is a citation mounted on a walnut plaque.

District Honor Ribbon - The District whose membership follows the same qualifications and dates as the award listed above will each receive an honor ribbon for its District colors.

New Membership Stimulus Award – Each Post is eligible to receive a \$10 rebate for New and Reinstated members acquired during the 2009-2010 membership year. The Post must attain a 2010 membership greater than its end of year 2009 membership (Dec 31, 2009 membership total). Each New or Reinstated member (individual who was not a member in 2009) above the 2009 membership will make the Post eligible for a \$10 rebate. This means that Department Headquarters will rebate the Department dues of \$10 back to the Post to use as the Post deems appropriate. Example: Your Post's 2009 End of Year membership was 131. For 2010 you attain a membership of 139. Your Post would receive a rebate of \$90 if you have 9 new or reinstated members. Transfers do not count if they were a member at another Post in 2009.

SPECIAL INDIVIDUAL RECOGNITION/ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Nominations must reach Department Headquarters by May 3, 2010

THE GOLD BRIGADE - A Legionnaire who recruits 50 or more **NEW MEMBERS** into The American Legion by the May Target Date will qualify for enrollment in the elite GOLD BRIGADE of The American Legion. These very special Legionnaires will be awarded unique gifts that designate affiliation with the Gold Brigade of The American Legion. Also, special recognition will be given to those Legionnaires enrolled in the Gold Brigade through special announcements in THE DISPATCH and in special articles in other publications. The National Commander will recognize members of the Gold Brigade during the National Convention. The gifts awarded to a Gold Brigader will depend on the number of times he/she has qualified for this award. The first time qualifier for the Gold Brigade will receive a choice of a designer jacket or sweater with the Gold Brigade logo on the left breast or polo shirt; a cap pin, a Gold Brigade patch for the blue blazer, and Gold Brigade certificate. A second, third or fourth time winner will receive a Gold Brigade Patch and certificate, a "hash mark" for the jacket sleeve, and the choice of either another designer jacket or a sweater with the Gold Brigade logo on the left breast or a polo shirt. **GOLD BRIGADE QUALIFIERS MUST BE CERTIFIED BY THE DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT.**

THE SILVER BRIGADE – A Legionnaire who recruits 25 to 49 **NEW MEMBERS** into The American Legion by the May Target Date will qualify for this award. A silver pin and certificate will be awarded.

NOTE: Silver Brigade and Gold Brigade awards cannot both be awarded to a recruiter during the same membership year.

**TARGET DATE
CONVENTION CUTOFF**

May 17, 2010

TO QUALIFY, MEMBERSHIP CARDS MUST BE IN STATE HEADQUARTERS ON OR BEFORE MAY 17, 2010.

Special District and Area Vice Commander's Awards - A special American Legion monogrammed polo shirt will be presented to each District Commander and Area Vice Commander who has the highest percentage of 2010 membership, over goal, by this target date.

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TARGET DATE

June 2 , 2010

Two free tickets to the State Convention Joint Legion/Auxiliary Banquet will be awarded to the District Commander of each District that has the 2010-11 officer certification of all Posts in his/her District completed and into State Headquarters by this target date.

“PRIDE OF THE PRAIRIE”

Traveling Membership Trophy

A specially designed trophy, consisting of a statue of a white buffalo mounted on a wooden base, will be presented at the State Convention to the Post in each of the five goal-size groups which shows the greatest percentage of increase in 2010 membership over the 2009 membership total on this date of the previous year. Those goal sizes are 15-74, 75-124, 125-199, 200- 299, and 300 PLUS.