



# Up To Now!

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## NOTE TO POST ADJUTANTS

State Headquarters is in the process of trying to get the on-line membership process down to a science. However, some adjutants have sent the on-line membership cards along with the regular paid memberships. This has resulted in the member being paid for twice, hence, we have to adjust the membership standings when we get the accounting report from National Headquarters. If you would please write on-line on the card or attach a note to the on-line memberships, it would simplify the process. Once we receive payment from National we are writing checks, once a month, to all Posts who have on-line renewals. We appreciate that the on-line renewal may seem difficult for the time being, but it will get better once adjustments are made. If you have any questions, please feel free to call State Headquarters and we'll assist you in any way we can.

## ENCLOSURE FOR POST AMERICANISM OFFICER

Post Adjutants, please give the enclosed American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program "A Constitutional Speech Contest" brochure to your Post Americanism Officer so he/she can take it to the local high school. This brochure is also available on the legion website at [www.sdlegion.org](http://www.sdlegion.org).

## LEGIIONNAIRES RECEIVE NATIONAL APPOINTMENTS

The American Legion National Commander Fang Wong of the Department of New York has announced the following national appointments for South Dakota Legionnaires:

PDC Larry L. Price of Redfield – a one-year appointment as Vice Chairman of The American Legion National Americanism Commission.

PDC Darrel Haskell of Aberdeen (member of the Conde American Legion Post), Rick MacDonald of Hermosa, Byron Callies of Watertown and Mark Weinmann of Canton (member of the Hudson American Legion Post) – one-year appointments as Vice Chairmen of The American Legion Americanism Council.

PDC Donald T. Clarke – one-year appointment as a member of the Distinguished Guest Committee.

Tim Jurgens of Milbank, PDC Rod Martens of Black Hawk (member of the Piedmont American Legion Post), Fred Nelson of Spearfish, and Dale Strom of Aberdeen – one-year appointments as Vice Chairmen of The American Legion Foreign Relations Council.

PDC Gerald Goetzinger of Martin – one-year appointment as Vice Chairman of The American Legion Membership and Post Activities Committee.

Charemon Dunham of Iroquois – one-year appointment as the National Commander's Representative on The American Legion Trophies, Awards and Ceremonials Committee.

Gary Wolkow of DeSmet, LuVerne Boes of Hermosa, and Betty "Sam" Vaughn of Brookings – one-year appointments as Vice Chairmen of The American Legion National and Homeland Security Council.

PDC Wayne "Red" Vetter of Cresbard – three-year appointment as a member of the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission.

Stanley Gruneich of Flandreau – three-year appointment as general member of the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission.

All appointments were confirmed by the National Executive Committee during its Fall Meeting at National Headquarters of The American Legion in Indianapolis, October 12-13, 2011.

## SOUTH DAKOTA AMERICAN LEGION EMPLOYER OF THE OLDER WORKER AWARD

Employment Committee Chairman Earl Schultz has announced Monsanto of Harrisburg, SD, has been selected to be the recipient of The American Legion Department of South Dakota 2011 Employer of the Older Worker Award.

Monsanto has a seed research business in Harrisburg. They currently have 25 employees with 7 of the employees at 55 years of age or older.

In 1958, the National Economics Commission expanded its Employer Award Program by creating this award for employers of older workers. Because the commission saw older workers as a valuable economic resource of proven skills, stability and experience, it wanted to encourage employers to hire and retain older workers in the work force.

## SEND IN YOUR VETERANS MEMORIALS

PDC Jim Huls of Madison took on the task of putting together a Veteran's Memorial Book following his year as Department Commander. Huls tasked the County Commanders to get pictures of all the veterans memorials in the county and send them to State Headquarters. PDC Huls has asked State Headquarters to notify everyone that he will be publishing more books in the near future. If you did not get your veterans memorials in the book, please take pictures of the memorials and send, with the location, to American Legion State Headquarters, PO Box 67, Watertown, SD 57201, or email [www.sdlegion@dailypost.com](mailto:www.sdlegion@dailypost.com).

## LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE TO MEET

The South Dakota American Legion Legislative Committee will hold its annual meeting Monday, November 7, at the Pierre American Legion Post 8 Home in Pierre. The legislative meeting is scheduled to start at 10:30 a.m. The current Legislative Commission is chaired by Gerald Goetzinger of Martin and members are Alt NEC Phil Anderson of Piedmont, Ron Tolrud of White, Bob Miller of Kimball and Curt Halverson of Rapid City (member of the Custer American Legion Post).

All members of the South Dakota American Legion are encouraged to become knowledgeable of the legislative issues The American Legion will pursue, and speak to your local district legislators on these issues. This meeting is open to the membership of The American Legion.

## VETERANS ROUNDTABLES SCHEDULED

The South Dakota Veterans Council will be hosting the legislative roundtable meetings during the months of November and December. The schedule is as follows: November 17 at the Aberdeen VFW starting at 7:00 p.m.; November 18 at Cedar Shore Resort, Oacoma, starting at 2:00 p.m.; November 19 at Piedmont American Legion Post starting at 1:00 p.m.; December 2 at the American Legion Post in Watertown starting at 1:00 p.m.; and December 3 at the DAV Headquarters in Sioux Falls starting at 12:00 noon.

We would like to invite all veterans to these events. Invitations have been sent to the senators, representatives and state officials in South Dakota. Please encourage your State House and Senate members to attend these roundtables to become familiar on the issues affecting veterans and their families.

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### **DEPARTMENT VAVS COMMITTEE TO MEET**

The Department Veterans Affairs Volunteer Services (VAVS) Committee will hold its annual meeting Tuesday, November 9, 2011, at the Pierre American Legion Post 8 Home in Pierre. The planning meeting is scheduled to start at 1:00 p.m.

The VAVS Committee is chaired by Ollie Redden of Pierre and members are Don Smith of Clear Lake, Darwin Wahlert of Sioux Falls, Darrel Yost of Leola, Kerwin "Pee Wee" Douthit of Hot Springs, Jerold Zerfoss of Wessington, and Ken Van Kekerix of Witten.

The committee will plan for the 2011 Christmas season at the VA facilities and the SD State Veterans Home. Traditionally, the committee makes recommendations for annual donations from the Department to the facilities to help offset the expenses of their Christmas parties and accepts recommendations from the Department Commander for gifts from the Department to each facility.

The committee strongly recommends that American Legion Posts begin planning now for the Post's contributions and/or donations to the facilities during the Christmas season.

### **BOYS STATE PLANNING MEETING TO BE HELD**

The annual planning meeting of the South Dakota American Legion Boys State Corporation members and Board of Directors, will be held at the American Legion Post 8 Home in Pierre, at 10:00 a.m., on Monday, November 14, 2011. This will be the initial planning meeting for the 2012 American Legion Boys State Session.

### **SD AMERICAN LEGION FOUNDATION TO MEET**

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the South Dakota American Legion Foundation is being called for 1:00 p.m., November 6, 2011, at the AmericInn in Chamberlain. The meeting is called to review the status of the foundation and to conduct other business of the foundation.

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

- ▷ Nicholas Kantack of Brookings and Kristina Zalus of Vermillion have earned \$1,100 scholarships for being Samsung American Legion Scholarship National Finalists.
- ▷ PDC Donald Clarke's address is Good Samaritan Society, 421 East 4<sup>th</sup> St, Miller, SD 57362. Don would appreciate anyone who would stop and visit or send correspondence.
- ▷ The lowering of the U.S. Flag to half staff is only authorized on Memorial Day, from sunrise to noon, or by Executive Order of the President or Governor.
- ▷ Legionnaires Insurance Trust has paid royalties of \$501,524 to the Department, since the Department of South Dakota endorsed LIT.

### **THANK YOU**

We would like to thank all the Legionnaires who volunteered to help man the American Legion table at the 2011 South Dakota State Fair in Huron, September 1-5. The Legionnaires, who donated their time, visited with many veterans about The American Legion.

### **EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR**

The forms for nominating local area teachers for The American Legion Department of South Dakota 2012 Educator of the Year Program are now available from State Headquarters in Watertown or online at [www.sdlegion.org](http://www.sdlegion.org).

This program, sponsored in conjunction with the National Education Week (November 13-19), is an excellent opportunity to provide valuable recognition to an educator from your community. Each Post should sponsor a nominee from a local school. That educator is then recognized by your local American Legion Post as your community's American Legion Educator of the Year and the nomination goes on for District and Department competition.

### **COMMANDER WEINMANN MAKES BID**

During the National Fall Meeting held October 10-11 at National Headquarters in Indianapolis, Commander Weinmann made the highest bid of all Departments in Category 5. Nineteen Departments are in this category ranging in size from 10,000 members to 24,999 members. Commander Weinmann placed a bid of 92.4% of the National Membership Goal by March 14, 2012.

If the Department reaches this bid, we will receive \$2,000 for computer technology at Department Headquarters. Commander Weinmann urges all Legionnaires and Posts in the Department to work together to achieve this goal.

### **DEADLINE APPROACHING FOR ED LOANS**

Application deadlines are November 1<sup>st</sup> and May 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. Loans received after the application deadline will be held until the next meeting of the Educational Loan Committee. The Educational Loan Committee meets twice a year to review and approve applications.

The American Legion Department of South Dakota Educational Loan Program is made possible by voluntary donations of Legion Posts, individuals and corporations. It is to be used for loans to eligible veterans, their children, and grandchildren for educational opportunities beyond high school. These loans enable eligible recipients to continue their education in college or technical schools in South Dakota.

### **MEMBERSHIP/REVITALIZATION MEETING SCHEDULED**

Commander Mark Weinmann has called the District Membership Chairman to the Best Western Motel in Huron, SD, on Saturday, October 29, 2011, for a meeting on membership and post revitalization. The meeting is scheduled to start at 9:00 a.m. and end at 4:00 p.m. Presentations will be given on Membership, Americanism, Children & Youth, Legiontown, Reconnect and Post Revitalization by Department leadership.

### **MIDWINTER BANQUET TICKETS**

Tickets for the MidWinter Conference Joint Banquet will be by advance sale only. No tickets will be available at the event. The Joint Banquet will be held Friday, February 10, 2012, at 7:00 p.m. The event will be preceded by a no-host cocktail hour commencing at 6:00 p.m. The menu will consist of steak & shrimp (6 oz. sirloin and 3 shrimp), twice baked potatoes, corn o'brien and cheesecakes.

Tickets are \$30.00 each and can be obtained by sending \$30.00 per ticket requested to Potter American Legion Post 3, PO Box 348, Chamberlain, SD 57325.

### **HOTELS/MOTELS IN OACOMA**

The Headquarters Hotel for the South Dakota American Legion MidWinter Conference will be the Cedar Shore Resort, located on Shoreline Drive in Oacoma. The phone number for the Cedar Shore Resort is 605-734-6376.

Additional lodging facilities in the Chamberlain/Oacoma area are:

- West River Inn & Suites – W Hwy 16, I 90 Exit 260, Oacoma 605-734-4222
- Days Inn – I 90 Exit 260, Oacoma 605-734-4100
- Super 8 Motel - I 90 Exit 263, Chamberlain 605-734-6548
- Oasis Inn – W Hwy 16, I90 Exit 260, Oacoma 605-734-6061
- Holiday Inn Express - I 90 Exit 260, Oacoma 605 -734-5593
- AmericInn - I 90 Exit 265, Chamberlain 605-734-0985

### **MEMBERSHIP UPDATE**

Membership stands at 15,567 or 69.09% of the Department's Membership Goal. The next membership target date is November 16, 2011.