



Up To Now!

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TO BE MAILED TO ADJUTANTS

The 2010-2011 Post Consolidated Report has just been received from National Headquarters and will be mailed out to all Post Adjutants. This is perhaps the most important document your Post can complete and submit. The information is compiled from all the Posts and is put into the annual report sent to the United States Congress. Please take a few minutes and fill out the information pertaining to your Post's activities and submit it to State Headquarters as soon as possible.

DID YOU KNOW?

- ▷ The American Legion State Convention for 2011 is at Oacoma; 2012 at Watertown; 2013 at Rapid City; 2014 at Pierre.
- ▷ The National American Legion Convention for 2011 is in Minneapolis, Mn.; 2012 in Indianapolis, In.; 2013 in Houston, Tx; 2014 in Charlotte, NC; 2015 in Baltimore, Md.
- ▷ The order in which the flags of the Armed Forces should be displayed, in rank or color guard, is from left to right; Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard.
- ▷ Alaska was the only part of the United States that was invaded by the Japanese during WWII.

2011 SPRING DISTRICT CONVENTION SCHEDULE

District Commanders will be elected for two-year terms in odd-numbered Districts. County Commanders will be elected for all counties. Note Change in location for District 2 Meeting. The schedule for the Spring District Meetings is as follows:

March 24 – Dist 9 – Martin: Social at 5:30 p.m., Dinner at 6:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m. Meeting at the Martin Legion Post Home. Auxiliary will meet at the Legion Post Home. (Mountain Time)

March 25 – Dist 13 – Rapid City: 4:00 p.m. Social, 5:00 p.m. Meeting at Rapid City Post 22, Dinner will follow the meeting. Auxiliary will meet at the Legion Post.

March 26 – Dist 12 – Piedmont: 11:00 a.m. registration, 11:30 a.m. Joint Meeting, 12:00 Noon Lunch, 1:00 p.m. Meeting at Post Home, Social following the Meeting. Auxiliary will meet at the Piedmont Post Home.

March 27 – Dist 11 – Isabel: 2:00 p.m. Social, 2:30 p.m. Banquet, 3:00 p.m. Meeting at the Senior Citizens Building. Auxiliary will meet at the Senior Citizens Building.

April 1 – Dist 14 – Mobridge: 5:30 p.m. Social, 6:30 p.m. Dinner, 7:30 p.m. Meeting at the Mobridge Legion Post Home. Auxiliary will meet at the Post Home.

April 2 – Dist 10 – Pierre: 5:30 p.m. Social, 6:00 p.m. Dinner, 7:00 p.m. Meeting at Pierre Post Home. Auxiliary will meet at the VFW Post Home.

April 3 – Dist 5 – Wolsey: No Social, 2:00 p.m. Meeting at Wolsey Legion Post Home, Light lunch following the Meeting. Auxiliary will meet at the Senior Center (one block north).

April 8 – Dist 8 – Gregory: 5:00 p.m. Social, 6:00 p.m. Dinner, 7:00 p.m. Meeting at Legion Post Home. Auxiliary will meet at the Legion Post Home.

April 9 – Dist 6 – Wessington Springs: 5:30 p.m. Social, 6:30 p.m. Banquet, 7:30 p.m. Meeting at Legion Post Home. Auxiliary will meet at the Legion Post Home.

April 10 – Dist 7 – Tripp: 11:30 a.m. Social, 12:30 p.m. Banquet, 1:30 p.m. Meeting at Legion Post Home. Auxiliary will meet in the

Tripp Fire Hall South (across the street).

April 15 – Dist 4 – Wilmot: No Social, 7:00 p.m. Meeting at the Wilmot Community Center, Lunch to follow meeting. Auxiliary to be announced.

April 16 – Dist 1 – Sioux Falls: 2:00 p.m. Meeting at Sioux Falls Post 15, Social at 4:30 p.m., Dinner at 5:00 p.m., Auxiliary will meet at the Moose Lodge.

April 29 – Dist 2 – Flandreau: 5:30 p.m. Social at John's Place (Restaurant), 6:00 p.m. Banquet at John's Place, 7:00 p.m. Meeting at the VET Center. Auxiliary will meet at John's Place.

April 30 – Dist 3 – Watertown: 6:00 p.m. Social, 7:00 p.m. Dinner, 8:00 p.m. Meeting at the Legion Post Home. Auxiliary will meet at the Ramkota in the Tanglewood Room.

MEMBERSHIP AWARDS

A \$250 District Membership Award will go to the District in each of the two goal-size categories that have by The American Legion Birthday Target of March 9, 2011, the highest percentage over 95% of that District's goal. This year we had no winner in category A, District 12 won with 98.05% in category B.

Placards will also be awarded to the following Posts for having the highest percentage of membership attainment in each of the five goal-size membership groups. Rosholt Post 48 with 150.00% in the 15-74 goal-size group, Belle Fourche Post 32 with 109.41% in the 75-124 goal-size group, Howard Post 145 with 102.05% in the 125-199 goal-size group, Piedmont Post 311 with 104.93% in the 200-299 goal-size group, Winner Post 169 with 96.46% in the 300 and larger goal-size group. District 12 at 98.05% had the highest percentage of it's assigned membership goal by this target date.

Go-Getter Medallions will be awarded to all Posts that reaches or exceeds 95% of it's assigned membership goal by the American Legion Birthday Target Date. The Posts that have achieved this goal are: **Dist 1** – Harrisburg Post 45, Humboldt Post 62, Davis Post 176, North Sioux City Post 319; **Dist 2** – Aurora Post 230, White Post 88, Badger Post 260, Erwin Post 241, Lake Preston Post 63, Oldham Post 158, Nunda Post 105, Ramona Post 216, Howard Post 145, Colman Post 278; **Dist 3** – Gary Post 109, Bryant Post 37, Hayti Post 217; **Dist 4** – Grenville Post 267, Lily Post 156, Rosholt Post 48, Wilmot Post 64; **Dist 5** – Virgil Post 268, Polo Post 299, Ree Heights Post 101, Brentford Post 242, Doland Post 69, Mansfield Post 289, Tulare Post 292; **Dist 6** – Plankinton Post 5, White Lake Post 96, Kimball Post 130, Pukwana Post 201, Ethan Post 261, Mount Vernon Post 210, Alexandria Post 41, Canistota Post 162, Letcher Post 93; **Dist 7** – Avon Post 150, Scotland Post 155, Greenwood Post 257, Wagner Post 11, Alsen Post 44, Irene Post 193, Vermillion Post 1, Wakonda Post 13, Armour Post 52, Delmont Post 249, Freeman Post 248, Menno Post 152, Parkston Post 194; **Dist 8** – Fairfax Post 187, Herrick Post 220, Kennebec-Reliance Post 179, Winner Post 169, Witten Post 167; **Dist 9** – Midland Post 143, Draper Post 301, Norris Post 310, St. Francis Post 297, Wanblee Post 269; **Dist 10** – Hoven Post 159; **Dist 11** – Isabel Post 120, Timber Lake Post 83; **Dist 12** – Belle Fourche Post 32, Lead Post 31, Box Elder Post 315, Piedmont Post 311; **Dist 13** – Hermosa Post 303, Hill City Post 160, Wall Post 246, Kyle Post 265; **Dist 14** – Columbia Post 58, Frederick Post 273, Warner Post 137, Herreid Post 170, Pollock Post 272, Hosmer Post 189, Roscoe Post 259, Selby Post 100.

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LEGION/AUXILIARY BOWLING TOURNAMENT

The 66th Annual Bowling Tournament will be held in Gettysburg at the Liberty Lanes, on the weekends of March 26-27 and April 2-3, 2011.

EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR DEADLINE NEARING

All Districts must complete and submit forms along with the winning scrapbook to Department Headquarters for their District's selection of the Educator of the Year by March 30, 2011.

The Department Education and Loan Committee will select the Department Educator of the Year from all the District nominees. The winner will receive a plaque to be presented at a local venue.

LEGIONNAIRE OF THE YEAR

All American Legion Posts are reminded that now is the time to select your Post Legionnaire of the Year. This is an excellent opportunity to recognize one Legionnaire from within your Post for his/her special efforts, initiative, and performance during the past year.

Forms for nominating your local Post Legionnaire of the Year for District Legionnaire of the Year competition are included in the *2010-2011 Post Adjutant's Administrative and Awards Manual*. Rules require Posts to submit nominations to the District Commander at least 15 days prior to the Spring District Conventions.

District Legionnaires of the Year will be recognized at the Spring District Conventions and at the Annual Department Convention in Oacoma, June 2011. District Legionnaires of the Year will be eligible for competition in the Department Legionnaire of the Year selection process. The Department Legionnaire of the Year will be announced at the Department Convention in Oacoma in June.

BOYS STATE REGISTRATION

All boys planning to attend American Legion Boys State need to be registered with the Boys State Registrar, Eugene Schumacher of Aberdeen, by April 1. Boys State Corporation has implemented a late registration fee of \$25.00 per boy if the deadline isn't met.

Keep in mind that Boys State Orientations should be scheduled after the first of May. It is recommended that the boys have the new 2011 Boys State manuals at the time of their Boys State Orientation.

ON LINE MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TO START IN JULY

Starting in July of 2011, each membership renewal letter will have an option for the member to renew his or her membership online, directly using a credit card.

After payment is confirmed, the member can then print out a 2012 membership card. This card will be similar to, but not exact match, to the pre-printed cards that are distributed normally each year to all Departments and Posts. This presents a situation where members seeking entrance to a Post using the computer-generated card may be denied access if Post Officers are not aware of the change for 2012. The Post should still give the member the original pre-printed card in exchange for the computer card.

All Post Officers have the ability, through www.mylegion.org, to download all their members, who may have renewed on line. National Headquarters will credit or reimburse each Department at least monthly with the full Post and Department per capita for each renewed member. The Departments, in turn, will credit or reimburse each Post.

Many details still need to be ironed out, but it is imperative that American Legion Posts and Districts are aware of the upcoming changes. As Department Headquarters learns of additional information pertaining to on line membership renewals, that information will be forwarded to all Posts.

BLACK HILL CEMETERY DIRECTOR LEAVING

Black Hills National Cemetery Director Sara J. Elton has been named the Chief of Operations for Memorial Service Network III in Denver, Colorado, for the National Cemetery Administration. Direc-

tor Elton will remain acting director of the Black Hills National Cemetery until her replacement is named and in place.

The Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial quarterly ceremony and Memorial Day ceremonies will continue as scheduled.

FROM PIERRE

These are the bills The American Legion has been monitoring during the legislative session, along with the bill's status as of Monday, March 14, 2011.

SB 51 - This bill would revise certain provisions relating to a previous appropriation for renovation of the nursing care building on the South Dakota Veterans' Home campus and to declare an emergency. **This bill has passed both houses and was delivered to the Governor.**

SB 52 - This bill would authorize the South Dakota Building Authority and the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs to provide for the design, construction, and equipping of the Veterans Home near Hot Springs and to declare an emergency. **This bill passed both houses and was delivered to the Governor.**

SB 53 - This bill revises certain provisions relating to the Veterans Commission and to veteran's rights, benefits, and services. This bill redefines a veteran and a war time veteran in South Dakota. **The bill passed both houses and was signed by the Governor.**

SB 56 - This bill would revise the qualifications of a county veterans' service officer. First read in the Senate and referred to Senate State Affairs Committee. The bill was deferred to the 41st day, **kill-ing the bill.**

SB 58 - This bill provides tuition benefits to certain National Guard members attending tribal colleges. Read in the Senate and referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee. This bill was deferred to the 41st day **kill-ing the bill.**

SB 69 - This bill would repeal certain provisions relating to county veterans memorials. **This bill passed both houses and was delivered to the Governor.**

SB 139 - This bill would exempt from state regulation certain foster home care for veterans. **This bill passed both houses and was signed by the Governor.**

HB 1083 - This bill would revise certain state education benefits for veterans. House Education Committee passed the bill. The bill went to the House and was amended and failed by a vote of 40-29. **The speaker declared the bill lost.**

HB 1125 - This bill will increase the amount of certain veterans' bonus payments. First read in House and referred to House State Affairs Committee. It was deferred to the 41st day, **kill-ing the bill.**

HB 1126 - This bill would revise the salary schedule for veterans' service officers. First read in House and referred to the House State Affairs Committee. It was deferred to the 41st day, **kill-ing the bill.**

HB 1198 - This bill would provide for the state and local government of certain federal immigration laws, to criminalize the knowing transportation, concealment, or solicitation of illegal aliens, and to provide penalties therefore. This bill was deferred to the 41st day, **kill-ing the bill.**

HB 1245 - This bill would revise and repeal certain provisions regarding the salary and travel reimbursements for county veterans service officers. Passed the House and an amended version passed the Senate. Delivered to the Governor.

SENATE COMMEMORATION NO. 9—Commemoration honoring the Boys and Girls State Governors - Presented by Governor Dugaard February 15, 2011.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

2011 membership stands at 21,375 or 92.93% of our 2011 National Membership Goal. Commander Gibson's pledge to the National Commander was 92.45% of goal. Due to the efforts of many Posts across the State and Leadership the Commander's pledge was achieved. Thank you all for your hard work in achieving the goal.