



Up To Now!

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ENCLOSED FOR ALL

Enclosed for all recipients of this *Up To Now* is an informative sheet, listing criteria and purpose, of The American Legion Good Samaritan Award. This award was approved by the Department Executive Committee during the 2009 Department American Legion Convention in Huron.

HATS IN THE RING

G. D. "Hoot" Gibson of Sioux Falls, currently Department Master-At-Arms, has been endorsed by Sioux Falls Post 15 as a candidate for State Commander of The American Legion for 2010-2011.

MIDWINTER CONFERENCE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

The 2010 South Dakota American Legion MidWinter Conference will be held Friday-Sunday, February 12-14, 2010, at the Cedar Shore Resort in Oacoma. The schedule of events is outlined below.

Friday, February 12

- 12:00 p.m. – Registration Desk Opens – Pre-Function Area
- 1:00 p.m. – Department Executive Committee Meeting – River Run/Wetlands Room
- 6:00 p.m. No Host Cocktails – Pre-Function Area/ Ball room
- 7:00 p.m. – Joint Legion/Auxiliary/SAL Banquet – Ball room

Saturday, February 13

- 8:00 a.m. – Registration Desk Opens – Pre-Function Area
- 8:30 a.m. – Joint Opening Session – Hale/Oacoma Room
Presentation of Colors
State Commander Rod Martens,
Auxiliary President Joan Spears,
SAL Detachment Commander Greg Lemieux
- 8:45 a.m. – National Commander Clarence Hill Remarks
- 9:00 a.m. – Auxiliary VA&R Briefing – Sue Christensen
- 9:10 a.m. – Auxiliary Children & Youth – Regina Whipple
- 9:20 a.m. – Craig Price, Supervisor Special Agent DCI,
South Dakota Attorney General Marty Jackley
"Children Exploitation on the Internet"
- 9:45 a.m. – Janell Christensen, Suicide Prevention
(Dept of Veterans Affairs)
- 10:05a.m. – Sara Elton, Director Black Hills Nat'l
Cemetery
- 10:30 a.m. – Legion/Auxiliary/SAL to separate meetings
- 10:45 a.m. – BREAKOUT SESSIONS:
Post Service Officer Session, Glass Room
Americanism Session, Howe Room
Legion Riders Session, Missouri Winds Room
Membership Session, Wheeler Room
- 12:00 Noon Lunch (on your own)
- 1:00 p.m. – BREAKOUT SESSIONS:
Adjutants Session, Glass Room

- Americanism Session, Howe Room
- Children & Youth Session, Missouri Winds
- Membership Session, Wheeler Room
- 2:15 p.m. – All Assemble in Convention Hall, Hale/Oacoma Room
- 2:20 p.m. – NEC Paul Evenson Remarks.
- 2:35 p.m. – Alt. NEC Phil Anderson Remarks.
- 2:45 p.m. – Department Legislative Committee Chairman
Gerald Goetzinger
- 3:00 p.m. – 2009 American Legion College Graduates
Byron Callies, Ken Orrock
- 3:15 p.m. – Department Membership Chairman Wayne
Rohde
Membership Report, Membership Awards &
Turn-In
- 3:40 p.m. – Dept. VAVS Committee Chairman Don Smith
VAVS Popcorn Fund Turn-In
- 3:50 p.m. – Forum
- 6:00 p.m. – Go-Getters Reception – Oacoma Community
Center
- 6:30 p.m. – Go-Getters Smorgasbord – Community Center
- 8:00 p.m. – Hospitality Rooms
- Sunday, February 14
- 8:30 a.m. – Non-Denominational Service, Hale/Oacoma
Room
- 10:30 a.m. –Department Finals American Legion
High School Oratorical Scholarship,
Hale/Oacoma Room

ATHLETIC COMMISSION TO MEET

The South Dakota American Legion Athletic Commission will hold its winter meeting at 1:00 p.m., Saturday, February 6, 2010, at the Governor's Inn, Pierre SD.

The business of the meeting will be to review the Department Baseball Rules for 2010 prior to the production of this year's rule book and to review all bids that have been submitted by Posts applying to host the 2011 athletic tournaments of the Department. Posts that have submitted bids are encouraged to have someone at this meeting to speak to their bids and to answer any questions that the commission may have related to those bids.

All bids to host the 2011 athletic tournaments of the Department need to be submitted to South Dakota American Legion State Headquarters, PO Box 67, Watertown SD 57201. The deadline for bids to be in State Headquarters is January 19, 2010.

Chairman Dan Sudbeck wants to inform all baseball teams that they will have to register on line to the National Organization. The website is baseball@legion.org.

NATIONAL CHRISTMAS BONUS AWARD

District 14 was the only winner in the National Christmas Award Program. The award gives \$50 for each 1% increase of membership over the District's December 31, 2008, membership total. District 14 finished the calendar year 1% over their previ-

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ous year's membership and will receive \$50 from National.

DISTRICT & AREA ORATORICAL CONTESTS

District & Area Contests for The American Legion High School Oratorical – “Constitutional Speech Contest” will be held in accordance with the following schedule. Please note change to location and time of Area 8, 9, 13 Contest.

- Dist 1 – Dell Rapids Legion Post, Jan. 16, 2 p.m.
- Dist 2 – Deubrook High School, White, Jan. 10, 2 p.m.
- Dist 3 – Cornerstone Methodist Church, Watertown, Jan. 17, 2 p.m.
- Dist 4 – Sisseton Legion Post, Jan. 17, 2 p.m.
- Dist 5 – Wolsey Elementary School, Jan. 17, 2 p.m.
- Dist 6 – Ethan Public School, Jan. 17, 2 p.m.
- Dist 7 – Tripp Legion Post, Jan. 17, 1:30 p.m.
- Dist 8 – Gregory Legion Post, Jan. 10, 1 p.m.
- Dist 9 – Philip Legion Post, Jan. 10, 1 p.m.
- Dist 10 – Gettysburg Legion Post, Jan. 10, 2 p.m.
- Dist 11 – Lemmon High School, Jan. 17, 2 p.m.
- Dist 12 – Piedmont Legion Post, Jan. 17, 2 p.m.
- Dist 13 – Rapid City Post 22 Legion Post, Jan. 17, 2 p.m.
- Dist 14 – Leola Legion Post, Jan 10, 2 p.m.
- Area 1, 7 – Centerville Legion Post, Jan. 30, 2 p.m.
- Area 2, 5, 6 – Iroquois High School, Jan. 31, 2 p.m.
- Area 3, 4, 14 – American Lutheran Church, Milbank, Jan. 31, 2 p.m.
- Area 8, 9, 13 – Gregory Legion Post, Jan. 10, (immediately following the District Contest).
- Area 10, 11, 12 – Black Hills State University campus, Spearfish, Jan. 30, 1:00 p.m.

GO-GETTER CERTIFICATION DEADLINE

All Posts are reminded that the deadline for certifying Go-Getters to qualify for Early Bird Go-Getter status is Wednesday, January 13, 2010. All Go-Getters who are certified to State Headquarters by Wednesday, January 13, 2010, will be entitled to attend the Go-Getters reception and dinner at the MidWinter Conference in Oacoma.

Post Adjutants must certify Go-Getters using GG Form No. 1-2010, Go-Getter Certification Form, which is located between Pages 7 and 8 in the *2009-2010 Post Adjutant's Administrative and Awards Manual*. Go-Getter cards may be picked up at the registration table at the MidWinter Conference in Oacoma.

DEADLINE FOR SPORTS BID

Posts interested in hosting the 2011 sporting events for The American Legion Department of South Dakota have until Tuesday, January 19, 2010, to submit their bids and invitations to State Headquarters in Watertown.

Bid forms for the State “B” and State Championship Tournaments can be obtained from State Headquarters in Watertown.

MIDWINTER BANQUET TICKETS

Tickets for the MidWinter Conference Joint Banquet will be by advanced sale only. No tickets will be available at the event. The joint Banquet will be held Friday, February 12, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. Banquet Dinner will feature Prime Rib plus dessert. The event will be preceded by a no-host cocktail hour commencing at 6:00 p.m.

Tickets are available from the Chamberlain American Legion Post. Tickets are \$30.00 each and can be obtained by sending \$30.00 per ticket requested to Potter American Legion Post 3,

P.O. Box 348, Chamberlain, SD 57325.

LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION SET

The South Dakota American Legion Department Legislative Committee has set the date for the 2010 SD American Legion Legislative Reception for Tuesday, February 2. The reception will be held at the Pierre American Legion Post 8, located at the south end of Pierre Street. The reception will start at 5:30 p.m. and run until approximately 9:00 p.m.

Legion Family members are encouraged to come to Pierre on that date and visit with their legislators. Please extend a personal invitation to your legislators to attend the reception that evening.

BOYS STATE PLANNING MEETING TO BE HELD

South Dakota American Legion Boys State Board of Directors will hold a planning meeting at 10:30 a.m., Thursday, January 21, 2010, at the American Legion Post Home, in Pierre, SD. This will be the second planning meeting for the 2010 American Legion Boys State Session. Many issues will be decided at this meeting including a five day Boys State Session instead of the present six day session.

If you have an interest in Boys State and would like to get involved in a program that offers great rewards, contact State Headquarters about the opportunities available through Boys State.

SD AMERICAN LEGION 2010 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

With the legislative session to begin January 12, 2010 it is imperative that the Legionnaires of South Dakota be aware of the issues set by The American Legion Legislative Committee

The 2010 Legislative Agenda for The American Legion Department of South Dakota is as follows:

Introduce legislation to separate the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs into two separate cabinet level departments, and create a Department of Veterans Affairs.

Introduce legislation to change the current law to make it a requirement that ALL discharges from the U.S. Armed Forces held by director, employees of the SD Division of Veteran Affairs, along with CVSO's/TVSO's, MUST BE HONORABLE.

Continue to ask for a study on the feasibility of establishing a veteran's cemetery and/or a veteran's home in Eastern South Dakota.

Continue to press for more emphasis to be placed on veteran's preference in the hiring of persons within South Dakota state government.

An excellent dialog has developed between the major veteran service organizations with regard to the above legislative agenda and all major groups will be working for the same legislative issues.

Please call or e-mail your legislators to better improve the success of our issues. We Need Your Help!!

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

2010 membership stands at 20,812 or 84.91% of the 2010 Department membership goal.

With the January 13 membership target date nearing, many awards are available to Posts. First, a Post honor ribbon will be awarded to all Posts whose 2010 membership by this date exceeds the total 2009 membership. Second, plaques or framed citations will be awarded to Posts who have achieved 90% or above membership goal. Third, a Post will receive a certificate of meritorious service for equaling or surpassing its previous all-time high membership.