



# Up To Now!



Ron Boyd – Department Adjutant – Public Relations Officer  
Dennis Brenden – Assistant Department Adjutant  
www.sdlegion.org – Email: sdlegion@dailypost.com

Issued Bi-Weekly from State Headquarters at Watertown, S.D. 57201-0067

Phone (605) 886-3604

No. 2991

January 7, 2009

## COMMANDER HULS ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENT

Dan Sudbeck of Dimock has been reappointed to the position of American Legion Athletic Commission Chairman. This is a one year appointment.

## \*\*\*\*\* LEGISLATIVE ALERT\*\*\*\*\*

The American Legion and the other Veteran Service Organizations will have a presence in Pierre for the 2009 South Dakota Legislative Session which starts on Tuesday, January 13, 2009. However the efforts of these lobbyists will not be sufficient to accomplish what needs to be done this session.

All Post Commanders have been mailed a special Legislative Alert along with a sample letter that can be mailed to your local legislators outlining the bills and resolutions that are important to the veterans of South Dakota. A copy of this Legislative Alert and letter can be found at The American Legion Department of South Dakota website at < www.sdlegion.org >.

## MIDWINTER CONFERENCE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

The 2009 South Dakota American Legion MidWinter Conference will be held Friday-Sunday, February 13-15, 2009 at the Cedar Shore Resort in Oacoma. The schedule of events is outlined below.

### Friday, February 13

- 12:00 noon Registration Desk Opens
- 1:00 p.m. Executive Committee Meeting
- 6:00 p.m. Social Hour/No-Host Cocktails
- 7:00 p.m. Joint Legion/Auxiliary/SAL Banquet

### Saturday February 14

- 8:15 a.m. Joint Opening – Cdr Jim Huls/President Woltjer/ SAL Cmd Lemieux
- 8:30 a.m. VA&R – Warren Aas
- 9:00 a.m. VA&R – Auxiliary
- 9:15 a.m. C&Y – Betty “Sam” Vaughn
- 9:45 a.m. C&Y – Auxiliary
- 10:00 a.m. Internal Revenue Service
- 10:30 a.m. National Commander Candidate Clarence Hill
- 11:00 a.m. Historian – Dale Strom
- 11:30 a.m. Americanism – Larry Madsen
- 12:00 a.m. VAVS Chairman – Don Smith
- 12:30 a.m. NEC Paul Evenson
- 1:00 p.m. Boys State – Tom Tyrrell
- 1:30 p.m. Legislative – Goetzinger/Boyd/Dewell/Aas/Brenden

- 2:30 p.m. Membership & Membership Awards – LaVaun Holan/Dennis Brenden
- 3:30 p.m. Open Forum – Commander Huls/Adjutant Boyd/this NEC Evenson/Alt NEC Price/SAL Cdr Lemieux
- 6:00 p.m. Go – Getters Reception
- 6:30 p.m. Go – Getters Smorgasbord
- 7:00 p.m. Past Department Commanders Social and Dinner

## Sunday, February 15

- 8:30 a.m. Non – denominational Service
- 12:00 p.m. Department Finals American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Constitutional Speech Contest

## MIDWINTER CONFERENCE BANQUET KEYNOTE SPEAKER

The Keynote speaker for the 2009 MidWinter Joint Legion/Auxiliary/SAL Banquet will be The American Legion National Commander David K. Rehbein of the Department of Iowa. A U.S. Army veteran of the Vietnam era, National Commander Rehbein served as an infantryman with the 4<sup>th</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> Armored Divisions in Germany from 1970 to 1971.

After leaving the Army, he attended Wayne State College and Iowa State University, graduating with a bachelor’s degree in physics and a master’s degree in metallurgy. Following graduation, he accepted a position as research metallurgist at the Ames Laboratory, U.S. Department of Energy, where he remained until his retirement in July 2008.

## 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 2008-2009 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 Huron in June 2009. 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

CONTINUED ON BACK

in Huron in June.

### **VETERANS LEGISLATIVE ROUNDTABLE**

A Veterans Legislative Roundtable discussion will be held at Codrington County American Legion Post 17 in Watertown, S.D., at 2:30 p.m. on Friday, January 9, 2009. American Legion Post 17 is located at 1412 9<sup>th</sup> Ave. SW, Watertown. This will be the third legislative roundtable of this type held – previous roundtables have been held in Sioux Falls and Brookings.

Representatives from the leadership of The American Legion Department of South Dakota, The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Department of South Dakota, Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Department of South Dakota, and the Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA) of South Dakota will be in attendance at meeting to provide information on the concerns and issues of importance to the veterans of the great state of South Dakota. All Legislators from legislative districts 01, 05, and 06 have been invited to attend and participate in this event.

The veterans of South Dakota are looking forward to this opportunity to visit with the legislators about our concerns and issues.

### **UPCOMING BENEFIT OUTREACH FORUMS**

Department Service Officer Warren Aas has additional American Legion Benefit Outreach Forums scheduled for 2009. These forums which provide the latest, up-to-date information on veteran's benefits are a must for all veterans, families of veterans and spouses of deceased veterans. You do not need to be a member of The American Legion to attend these forums.

All forums start at 7:00 p.m. and last for approximately 2 hours. Refreshments will be served during and after the forums and service officers will be available to assist veterans with existing claims or to initiate new claims. Informational handouts will be available on many of the topics covered.

Remaining Veteran Benefits Outreach Forums are scheduled as follows:

- January 7, 2009 – Renner
- January 8, 2009 – Madison
- February 2, 2009 – Sisseton
- February 3, 2009 – Willow Lake
- February 4, 2009 – Roscoe

### **DISTRICT ORATORICAL CONTESTS**

District Contests for The American Legion High School Oratorical – “Constitutional Speech Contest” will be held in accordance with the following schedule:

- Dist 1 – Beresford Legion Post, Jan. 18, 2 p.m.
- Dist 2 – Brookings Legion Post, Jan 18, 2 p.m.
- Dist 3 – Cornerstone Methodist Church, 1350 11<sup>th</sup> St. NE, Watertown, Jan 18, 2 p.m.
- Dist 4 – Sisseton Legion Post, Jan 18, 2 p.m.
- Dist 5 – Wolsey Elementary School, Jan. 18, 2 p.m.
- Dist 6 – Ethan Public School, Jan 18, 2 p.m.
- Dist 7 – Tyndall Legion Post, Jan. 11, 2 p.m.
- Dist 8 – Colome Legion Post, Jan 18, 2 p.m.
- Dist 9 – Martin Legion Post, Jan. 18, 2 p.m.
- Dist 10 – Pierre Legion Post, Jan. 11, 2 p.m.
- Dist 11 – to be announced
- Dist 12 – Piedmont Legion Post, Jan. 11, 2 p.m.
- Dist 13 – Rapid City Post 22, Jan. 11, 2 p.m.
- Dist 14 - Leola Legion Post, Jan 11, 1:30 p.m.

### **MIDWINTER CONFERENCE BANQUET TICKETS**

Tickets for the MidWinter Conference Joint Banquet will be by advanced sales only. The deadline date for requesting your tickets is February 6, 2009. No tickets will be available at the event. The Joint Banquet will be held Friday, February 13, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

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.

### **ATHLETIC COMMISSION TO MEET**

The South Dakota American Legion Athletic Commission will hold its winter meeting on Sunday, January 25, 2009 at Pierre American Legion Post 8. The meeting is scheduled to convene at 1:00 p.m.

The business of the meeting will be to review the Department Baseball Rules for 2009 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 2010 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 2010 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 January 19, 2009.

### **AMERICAN LEGION LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION**

The South Dakota American Legion Department Legislative Committee has set the date for the 2009 South Dakota American Legion's Legislative Reception for Tuesday, February 10. The reception will be held at 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 9:00 p.m. Legion Family members are encouraged to come to Pierre on that date; come to the capitol and visit with your local legislators and extend a personal invitation to them to attend the reception that evening with Legion Family members from all across the state of South Dakota.

### **END OF THE YEAR MEMBERSHIP AWARDS**

District 10 was the only winner in the National Christmas Award Program. The District will receive \$250 from National with matching funds from The Department of South Dakota bringing the total to \$500. District 10 finished the calendar year 5% over their membership as of December 31, 2007.

The County Commander in each of the four goal-size groups that has enrolled the highest percentage of assigned membership goal for 2009 by the December 9, 2008 target date will receive an American Legion belt buckle. The winners are as follows: Dennis Bates of Herreid, Campbell County (15-199); Don J. List of Yankton, Yankton County (200-349); Lorraine Paver of Clear Lake, Deuel County (350-549); Howard Ostlund of Watertown, Codington County (550-and larger).

### **MEMBERSHIP UPDATE**

2009 membership stands at 21,386 or 85.31% of our 2009 membership goal. The Department 2009 membership achievement thus far has resulted in the Department ranking fourth out 55 Departments in the national membership drive. Keep up the great work. We can reach that 100%.