



Up To Now!

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HATS IN THE RING

Wesley Rye of Yankton has been endorsed by Hall-Thompson Post 193 of Irene as a candidate for State Vice Commander of The American Legion for 2010-2011 from the Area consisting of Districts 1 & 7.

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

- 10:00 a.m. – Administrative Committee
- 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
- 9:05 a.m. – Auxiliary VA&R Briefing – Sue Christensen
- 9:15 a.m. – Auxiliary Children & Youth – Regina Whipple
- 9:25 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)
- 10:05 a.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. – Honor Flight, Larry Rohrer

- 3:15 p.m. – 2009 American Legion College Graduates
Byron Callies, Ken Orrock
- 3:30 p.m. – Department Membership Chairman Wayne
Rohde, Membership Report, Membership
Awards & Turn-In
- 3:50 p.m. – Dept. VAVS Committee Chairman Don Smith
VAVS Popcorn Fund Turn-In
- 4:00 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

SOUTH DAKOTA ATTORNEY GENERAL TO SPEAK

Due to scheduling and flight arrangements, National Commander Clarence Hill won't be arriving at The American Legion MidWinter Conference in Oacoma, until late Friday evening, February 12, 2010.

This year Marty J. Jackley will be the speaker at The American Legion MidWinter Banquet Friday evening. Marty J. Jackley was sworn in as the 30th Attorney General for the State of South Dakota. He serves as the chief law enforcement officer for the State. As Attorney General, Marty is committed to fighting crime, protecting consumers and ensuring that South Dakota remains a safe place to live.

Marty graduated from the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology in 1992 with his Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering with Honors. He received his law degree from the University of South Dakota School of Law in 1995.

From 1995-97, Marty served as a law clerk for then-Chief Judge Richard H. Battey in federal district court in Rapid City. Marty then joined the Rapid City law firm of Gunderson, Palmer, Nelson, and Ashmore LLP. At this time he also served as a Special Assistant Attorney General for South Dakota, prosecuting primarily controlled substance felonies.

In 2006, Marty was appointed and unanimously confirmed by the US Senate as US Attorney for South Dakota. Marty was the recipient of the South Dakota Prosecutor of the Year for 2008 from the South Dakota State's Attorneys Association for outstanding prosecutorial service.

Marty and his wife, Angela, live in Pierre with their two children, Michael (5) and Isabella (3).

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 apply-

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ing 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.

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.

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.

Commander Rod Martens and Legislative Chairman have called a meeting of The American Legion Legislative Committee at 3:30 p.m., February 2, prior to the Legislative Reception. The purpose of the meeting is to review The American Legion Legislative Agenda.

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 RESCHEDULED

The Boys State Planning meeting scheduled for Thursday, January 21, has been rescheduled to Tuesday, February 2, 2010. The meeting will start at 10:30 a.m. at the American Legion Post Home in Pierre, SD. All legionnaires are welcome to attend.

AREA ORATORICAL CONTESTS

District Contests for The American Legion High School Oratorical – “Constitutional Speech Contest” have concluded with four of the Area Contests remaining. The area contests remaining are:

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 10, 11, 12 – Black Hills State University campus,
Spearfish, Jan. 30, 1:00 p.m.

FROM PIERRE

The Eighty-fifth Session of the SD Legislature has gotten off to a slow start due to the uncertainty surrounding the current budget crisis. The American Legion Legislative Committee and Lobbyists will be monitoring bills pertaining to veterans issues.

HB 1049 – This bill would require the Director of the Division of Veterans Affairs to have all honorable discharges from all periods of service in the Armed Forces of the United States. *This bill went to the House State Affairs Committee. The bill passed committee 12 Yeas, Nays 0 with a recommendation to DO PASS. This bill went to the House on January 19 and passed unanimously. This was introduced at the request of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. This bill has been a priority of the Veterans Service Organizations for the last two sessions. The American Legion along with the other Veterans Service Organizations included the employees of the Division of Veterans Affairs and the CSO/TSO's in the bill proposed at last year's session. Your American Legion Legislative Lobbyists testified in support of this bill.*

HB 1005 – This bill was introduced at the request of the Interim Bureau of Personnel Agency Review Committee. Under Section 8, 3-3-1 be amended to include a veteran defined in 33-17-1, who is a citizen and resident of the state, shall receive preference for appointment, employment, and promotion. A veteran who has a service connected disability shall be given a preference over a nondisabled vet-

eran. *This bill has been scheduled for hearing in the House Judiciary Committee 1/20/2010.*

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.

END OF YEAR MEMBERSHIP AWARDS

100 Posts, have qualified for the Continuous Goal Achievement Award based on the attainment of advanced membership of at least 90% of the next year's membership goal by the end of the current year. Congratulations to these 100 Posts for their dedicated and devoted work on membership.

One Post, Lake Preston, has made advanced membership assignment every year since the award was implemented 62 years ago. A **SPECIAL CONGRATULATIONS** to that Post on this remarkable achievement. Other notable achievements that deserve to be acknowledged are 60 consecutive years by Letcher and 52 consecutive years by Geddes.

Framed citations are presented for each five-year increment of continuous achievement; attachments are presented for intermediate years. These awards will be presented during the Spring District Meetings in April. Those Posts that will be receiving framed citations include: Humboldt Post 62 – 10 years, Erwin Post 241 – 10 years, Howard Post 145 – 10 years, Carpenter Post 153 – 25 years, Cresbard Post 213 – 5 years, Faulkton Post 102 – 5 years, Northville Post 149 – 25 years, Mt. Vernon Post 210 – 5 years, Letcher Post 93 – 60 years, Alsen Post 44 – 15 years, Lead Post 31 – 10 years, Hill City Post 160 – 5 years and Stratford Post 207 – 5 years. All other Posts that qualified, and have previously been awarded a 5-year continuous membership citation will be awarded an attachment to be affixed to the previously awarded 5-year increment citation which they last received.

Two Posts qualified for Certificates of Meritorious Service for having attained All-Time High Membership for 2010 by the January 13, 2010 Target Date. Those Posts are Piedmont Post 311 and Hermosa Post 303. Each Post will receive a Certificate of Meritorious Service from the National Commander during the Spring District Meetings. Congratulations to those Posts and their membership teams.

Nineteen Posts qualified for Post Honor Ribbons for having attained 2010 membership that exceeded their total 2009 membership by the January 13, 2010, Target Date. Those Posts included District 1 – Worthing Post 177, Centerville Post 43; District 2 – Badger Post 260, Oldham Post 158, Nunda Post 105, Ramona Post 216, Howard Post 145; District 4 – Grenville Post 267; District 5 – Polo Post 299, Northville Post 149; District 6 – Mt Vernon Post 210; District 8 – Fairfax Post 187, Witten Post 167; District 10 – Blunt Post 77; District 12 – Piedmont; and District 14 – Hecla Post 68, Herreid Post 170, Pollock Post 272, Bowdle Post 264.

The District Commander award for attainment of 90 percent or more of assigned membership goal by January 13, 2010, had one winner. Fred Nelson, District 12 Commander, will receive an award for being at 90.75%.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

2010 membership stands at 21,052 or 85.89% of the 2010 Department membership goal.

