



Up To Now!

Dennis Brenden – 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. 3021

March 3, 2010

ENCLOSED TO ALL POST ADJUTANTS

Enclosed for Post Adjutants are the Minutes of the Administrative Committee and Executive Committee meetings held during the MidWinter Conference Feb 12, 2010, at Oacoma, SD.

Also enclosed to Post Adjutants is the 2011 Post Data Report for your respective Post. These forms must be filled out and returned to State Headquarters in Watertown no later than April 15, 2010.

This form is used to set your 2011 Post dues rate and to ensure that your members are returning their 2011 dues to the correct mailing address. It is imperative that the information on this form be filled out correctly and accurately.

Also enclosed to Post Adjutants is the new Post Americanism Report. Please disregard the old Americanism Report form and fill out the new Post Americanism report and turn in at your Spring District Meeting.

Enclosed to Post Adjutants is a 2010 American Legion Baseball Registration. This year American Legion Baseball teams will register on line. In order to receive the *2010 South Dakota American Legion Baseball Rules Book* and other information, the enclosed form needs to be filled out and returned to State Headquarters, PO Box 67, Watertown, SD 57201.

HATS IN THE RING

Merlin H. Williams Post 167 of Witten has endorsed Kenneth Van Kekerix of Witten for the office of State Vice Commander for the Area consisting of Districts 8, 9, and 13 of the South Dakota American Legion.

CORRECTION

The National Oratorical Finals will be held at the Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis University Place Conference Center and Hotel, Indianapolis, Indiana, April 9-11, 2010. The dates were reported in the February 17 issue of the *Up To Now* as April 16-18, 2010.

BOYS STATE & GIRLS STATE GOVERNORS RECOGNIZED

On Wednesday, February 24, the 2009 Boys State Governor Daniel Miller of Watertown and 2009 Girls State Governor Murphy Dods of Sioux Falls were recognized in the Senate and House during the 2010 Legislative Session. Following the reading of Senate Commemoration 12 in both houses, the 2009 Boys State and 2009 Girls State Governors received an ovation from the legislators.

After being recognized in the Senate and House, the 2009 Governors visited and had a photo session with Governor Rounds in his office. Also attending the Commemoration were Daniel's mother, Wendy, Murphy's mother Joy, American Legion Auxiliary Girls State Director Cheryl Hovorka, American Legion Adjutant Denny Brenden, and other guests.

2010 SPRING DISTRICT CONVENTION SCHEDULE

Please ensure that all members are aware of the fact that District Commanders will be elected for two-year terms in even-numbered Districts. County Commanders will be elected for all counties. Below is the schedule for the District Meetings scheduled for the Department of South Dakota:

March 12 – Dist 8 – Winner: 6:00 PM Social, 6:30 PM Banquet,

7:30 PM Meeting at Legion Post Home, Auxiliary – Post Home

March 13 – Dist 7 – Corsica: 11:00 AM Social, 12:00 noon Banquet, 1:00 PM Meeting at Corsica Post Home, Auxiliary – Corsica Community Center

March 19 – Dist 9 – Kadoka: 5:00 PM Social Club 27, 6:00 PM Banquet Club 27, 7:00 PM Meeting Club 27, Auxiliary – Gateway Apartments

March 20 – Dist 13 – Wall: 1:30 PM Meeting at Wall Community Center, Lunch following Meeting, Auxiliary – Wall Community Center

March 21 – Dist 12 – Spearfish: 1:30 PM Social at Spearfish Holiday Inn, 2:00 PM Meeting at Room 76 at Spearfish Holiday Inn, 5:00 PM Dinner Lucky 13 Restaurant (individuals will be responsible for paying their own costs), Auxiliary – Canyon Room at Spearfish Holiday Inn

March 26 – Dist 11 – Lemmon: 5:00 PM Social at Legion Post Home, 6:00 PM Banquet, 7:00 PM Meeting Lemmon Fire Hall, Auxiliary – Legion Post Home

March 27 – Dist 10 – Pierre: 2:00 PM Meeting at Pierre Post Home, 5:00 PM Social, 6:00 PM Banquet, Auxiliary – VFW 2038 Membership Room

April 9 – District 14 – Aberdeen: 6:00 PM Social at VFW Club, 7:00 PM Banquet, 8:00 PM Meeting VFW Club, Auxiliary – TBA

April 10 – Dist 5 – Redfield: 5:30 PM Social at Post Home, 7:00 PM Meeting, Auxiliary – TBA

April 11 – Dist 6 – Mitchell: 5:00 PM - Social at Mitchell Post Home, 6:00 PM - Banquet, 7:00 PM Meeting, Auxiliary – Mitchell Post Home

April 16 – Dist 4 – New Effington: 4:00 PM Executive Meeting, 5:00 PM - Social Hour at Community Center, 6:00 PM – Banquet, 7:00 PM – Meetings: Legion – Community Center, Auxiliary – Community Center

April 17 – Dist 3 – Gary: 6:00 PM Social at Legion Post Home, 7:00 PM Banquet, 8:00 PM Meeting, Auxiliary - Post Home

April 18 – Dist 2 – Brookings: 12:00 PM Social, 12:30 PM Meal, 1:30 PM Meeting at Legion Post Home, Auxiliary - VFW

April 25 – Dist 1 – Tea: 2:00 PM Meeting Legion Post Home, 5:00 PM Social, 6:00 PM Banquet, Auxiliary – Tea Area Historical Society

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 2009-2010 Post Adjutants' 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 Spearfish in June 2010. 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

CONTINUED ON BACK

announced at the Department Convention in Spearfish in June.

TEN TRAVELED TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

Ten members of The American Legion Department of South Dakota traveled to Washington, D.C., in late February, early March, to participate in the Fiftieth Annual Washington Conference. This annual conference is the primary opportunity for members of The American Legion, from all 50 states to converge on Capitol Hill, all carrying the same message regarding the Legislative Priorities which The American Legion has compiled that will serve the best interests of our nation's veterans, along with the priorities we believe best serve those interests represented by the other three pillars of The American Legion; Americanism, Children and Youth, and National Security.

Those called into Washington, D.C. this year include NEC Paul Evenson of Garretson (Foreign Relations Commission Liaison), PDC Gerald Goetzinger of Martin (Vice Chairman Membership and Post Activities Committee), PDC Larry Price of Redfield (Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Committee), Alt NEC Phil Anderson of Piedmont (National Security Commission), PDC Jim Huls of Salem (Employment Committee), PDC Gunner Baatrup of Huron (Convention Commission) and PDC William Dolan of Beresford (Public Relations Commission). Also attending was Department Commander Rod Martens of Black Hawk and Adjutant Denny Brenden of Watertown.

The Washington Conference was scheduled for February 28 - March 3. Attendees stayed at the Renaissance Washington, DC Hotel. February 28th, March 1st and 3rd were meeting days for the various committees and commissions. Tuesday, March 2 was designated as Hill Day. Tuesday, March 2, commenced with an American Legion Legislative Rally at the hotel in the morning and shortly after lunch, all participants journeyed to Capitol Hill to present The American Legion's Legislative Priorities list to their respective Congressional Delegations.

The tenth South Dakota Legionnaire who traveled to Washington, DC was Department Service Officer Warren Aas of Watertown. DSO Aas participated in the Annual Department Service Officer's School which was held at the Renaissance Washington DC Hotel. DSO Aas arrived in Washington on February 23 and departed on February 28, just shortly after the remaining Legionnaires from South Dakota arrived.

FROM PIERRE

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. *The bill passed the House and Senate unanimously. The bill was signed by the governor. American Legion Legislative Lobbyists testified in support of this bill at both the House and Senate Committee hearings.*

HB 1005– This bill, 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 non-disabled veteran. *The bill received a unanimous vote in the House and Senate with a recommendation of Do Pass. This bill was signed by the Governor on Feb. 25th.*

HB 1130 - This bill would include the spouses of certain members of the armed forces who died in military service as eligible for gold star special license plates. *The bill received a Do Pass recommendation on the floor of the House with a unanimous vote. It was assigned to the Senate Transportation Committee on Feb 10th.*

HB 1185 – This bill would provide property tax benefits to the surviving spouses of certain disabled veterans. *This bill received a Do Pass in both the House and Senate. Feb 25th it was delivered to the Governor. American Legion Lobbyists testified in favor of this bill.*

HB 1048 – This bill would revise certain provisions relating to a previous appropriation for National Guard armory construction. *The bill received a Do Pass on the floor of the House with a 67-1 vote. The Senate*

Appropriations Committee recommended Do Pass and as of Feb 25th, this bill is waiting to be heard on the Senate floor.

SB 69 - This bill is to authorize certain exceptions to the nursing facility moratorium. This bill would allow a new 50 bed nursing home to be constructed, operated, and maintained in the eastern part of the State. *This bill was amended and passed in the Senate. This bill now goes to the House State Affairs Committee.*

SB 76– This bill would revise the composition of the State Veterans' Commission. *This bill was heard in the Senate State Affairs Committee. This bill was amended to ensure that the Governor will retain the authority to appoint a Commissioner from two nominees from the Veterans Service Organizations. This bill passed the Senate floor on Feb 16 with a vote of 33-1. As of Feb 17th, the bill has been waiting to go to the House State Affairs Committee. American Legion Lobbyists testified on this bill.*

SB 134 – This bill would provide for divestiture of state investment funds in certain companies liable to sanctions under the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996. *Iran is on a list of countries at the United States Department of State that have been determined to repeatedly provide support for acts of international terrorism. This bill passed on the Senate Floor and is waiting to be heard in the House State Affairs Committee. American Legion Lobbyists testified in favor of this bill.*

SB 150 - This bill would provide for an interim study of the potential creation of a Department of Veterans Affairs as a cabinet-level position. *This bill was heard in the Senate State Affairs Committee on Feb. 10. The bill was defeated by a 6-3 vote and was deferred to the 41st legislative day effectively killing the bill. American Legion Lobbyists testified in favor of this bill.*

MEMBERSHIP AWARDS

Commander Rod Marten's "All Four One" award will be presented to all Posts that have attained 100% of it 2010 membership goal by February 10th. The Posts who have attained this achievement are: **Dist 1** – Centerville Post 43, Davis Post 176, North Sioux City Post 319; **Dist 2** – Elkton Post 198, Badger Post 260, Nunda Post 105, Ramona Post 216, Howard Post 145, Colman Post 278; **Dist 3** – Carpenter Post 153, Gary Post 109, Toronto Post 81; **Dist 4** – Grenville Post 267, Roslyn Post 253, Rosholt Post 48; **Dist 5** – Virgil Post 268, Polo Post 299, Mansfield Post 289, Northville Post 149; **Dist 6** – Plankinton Post 5, Ethan Post 261, Mount Vernon Post 210, Letcher Post 93; **Dist 7** – Geddes Post 56, Freeman Post 248; **Dist 8** – Fairfax Post 187, Witten Post 167; **Dist 9** – Norris Post 310; **Dist 10** – Blunt Post 77; **Dist 11** – Eagle Butte Post 308; **Dist 12** – Piedmont Post 311; **Dist 13** – Hermosa Post 303, Hill City Post 160, Wall Post 246; **Dist 14** – Hecla Post 68, Stratford Post 207, Warner Post 137, Herreid Post 170, Hosmer Post 189, Selby Post 100.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

2010 membership stands at 21,972 or 91.55% of 2010 National Membership goal.

Commander Marten's pledge to the National Commander was 93.4% of goal. We are very close to achieving this pledge. Please send in all renewals and new members to State Headquarters by March 9th. We'll overnight the memberships to National, so they are in by the March 10th Target Date. Every member counts to achieving the Commanders pledge. If we can reach the percentage that was pledged, we'll receive \$2,000 from National towards computer technology. This is badly needed. Please take the step needed to accomplish this goal.

