



Up To Now!



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ENCLOSED FOR POST ADJUTANTS

Enclosed for Post Adjutants is a copy of the minutes of the meeting of the Department Executive Committee which was held at the MidWinter Conference in Oacoma, February 13, 2009.

Enclosed for Post Adjutants is a copy of the entry form for the 2009 American Legion Baseball season. If your Post will field a baseball team this year, the yellow-colored entry form must be completed with the name, address and phone number of the Post Athletic Officer.

The completed form, \$100 entry fee and certificate of insurance must be sent so that they reach State Headquarters, PO Box 67, Watertown, SD 57201, by May 15, 2009. The fee will be \$150 for registrations received after May 15, 2009, and \$200 for registrations received after May 31, 2009. Teams not registered by June 15, 2009, will be ineligible for post-season tournament competition.

Teams will not be allowed to register until they provide proof that they have insurance, which is mandated by Department and National Rules. As a reminder, your team(s) should not even commence practice until they have obtained the required insurance. All teams sponsored by the Post must be registered and must have insurance. Once a team is registered, State Headquarters will send a copy of the National and Department Rule Books, plus pertinent information to the person named as the Post Athletic Officer.

Also enclosed is the 2010 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, 2009.

This form is used to set your 2010 Post dues rate and to ensure that your members are returning their 2010 dues to the correct mailing address. It is imperative that the information on this form be filled out correctly and accurately. Late return of this form will result in your initial renewal notices for 2010 dues being sent out with inaccurate information.

SIEVERT RECOVERING FROM SURGERY

District 1 Commander Dick Sievert is recovering from surgery. Dick is doing well. Cards can be sent to Dick Sievert, 5709 W 26th St, Sioux Falls, SD, 57106.

ENCLOSED FOR ALL RECIPIENTS

Enclosed for all recipients of this *Up To Now* is a copy of the Official Call for the 2009 Spring District Conventions of The American Legion Department of South Dakota.

Please ensure that all members are aware of the fact that District Commanders will be elected for two-year terms in **odd-numbered** Districts. County Commanders will be elected for all counties that do not have established county organizations, and two delegates and two alternate delegates to the National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky, will be elected in each District. District Executive Committees will select their respective District Legionnaires of the year prior to the meetings.

HATS IN THE RING

Marion Fitzsimonds Post 160 of Hill City has endorsed Ronald A Kazmierczak of Rapid City for the office of State Vice Commander for the Area comprised of Districts 8, 9, 13.

ELEVEN TRAVELED TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

Eleven members of The American Legion Department of South Dakota traveled to Washington, D.C., February 28 - March 1, to participate in the Forty-Ninth 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 had 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 Wayne Vetter of Cresbard (Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Committee), PDC Gene Schumacher of Aberdeen (Employment Committee), PDC Phil Anderson of Piedmont (National Security Commission), PDC Ron Tolrud of White (Children & Youth) and Past National Chaplain Stan Gruneich of Flandreau (Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Committee). Also attending will be Department Commander Jim Huls of Salem, Department Adjutant Ron Boyd of Watertown, and Department Assistant Adjutant Denny Brenden of Watertown.

The Washington Conference was scheduled for March 1-4. Attendees stayed at the Renaissance Washington, DC Hotel. March 1st, 2nd, and the 4th were meeting days for the various committees and commissions. Tuesday, March 3 was designated as Hill Day. Tuesday, March 3, commenced with an American Legion Legislative Rally at the hotel in the morning and shortly after lunch, all participants journeyed to Capitol Hill and presented The American Legion's Legislative Priorities list to their respective Congressional Delegations.

The eleventh 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 also held at the Renaissance Washington DC Hotel. DSO Aas arrived in Washington on February 24 and departed on March 1, just shortly after the remaining Legionnaires from South Dakota arrived.

AMERICAN LEGION BOWLING TOURNAMENT

The 64th Annual Bowling Tournament will be held in Mitchell at the Village Bowl, on the weekends of March 21-22 and March 28-29, 2009, and in Sisseton at Hippen's Steakhouse & Lanes & Lounge, on March 28-29 and April 4-5, 2009

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2009 SPRING DISTRICT CONVENTION SCHEDULE

March 12 – Dist 9 – Philip: 6 PM - Social - Philip Legion Hall, 7 PM - Banquet - Philip Legion Hall, 7:30 PM – Meetings: Legion - Legion Hall, Auxiliary - Legion Hall

March 13 – Dist 11 – Faith: 5 PM - Social Hour - Faith VFW Post, 6 PM - Banquet – Faith Community Center/Legion (across street from VFW), 7 PM – Meetings: Legion - VFW Post, Auxiliary - Community Center/Legion

March 14 – Dist 13 – Hermosa: 1 PM – Executive Committee, Meetings: Legion 2 PM in the Post Home, Auxiliary – Post Home 303 Annex, Social - 4 PM, Dinner - 5 PM

March 15 – Dist 12 – Piedmont: 10 AM - Registration - Piedmont Legion Post Home, 10:30 AM - Joint Legion/Auxiliary Meeting, 12 PM – Lunch, 1 PM – Meeting: Legion - Post Home Auxiliary - Post Home

March 20 – Dist 4 – Sisseton: 5 PM - Social - Sisseton Legion Post Home, 6 PM – Banquet, 7 PM – Meeting: Legion - Legion Post Home, Auxiliary - Legion Post Home

March 21 – Dist 14 – Mobridge: 5:30 PM – Social – Post Home, 6:30 PM - Banquet, 8 PM – Meetings, TBA

March 22 – Dist 10 – Onida: 2 PM – Meetings: Legion - Onida Post Home, Auxiliary - Catholic Church, Light Lunch after the meetings at the Post Home

March 28 – Dist 7 – Wakonda: 11:30 AM - Social - Wakonda Legion Post Home, 12:30 – Dinner, 1:30 PM – Meetings: Legion - Post Home, Auxiliary – TBA, 4 PM - Lunch and social

March 29 – Dist 8 – Colome: 5 PM - Social - Legion Post Home, 6 PM – Banquet, 7 PM – Meetings: Legion - Post Home, Auxiliary - Post Home

April 3 – Dist 6 – Kimball: Meetings: Legion- Post Home, Auxiliary – TBA, 7 PM Meetings, Social or Banquet TBA

April 4 – Dist 5 – Cresbard: 5 PM - Social - Cresbard Community Center, 6 PM - Banquet - Cresbard Community Center, 7 PM – Meetings: Legion - Cresbard Community Center, Auxiliary – TBA

April 17 – Dist 2 – Howard: 5:30 PM - Social Hour - Howard Legion Post Home, 6:30 PM – Banquet, 7:30 PM – Meetings: Legion - Howard Legion Post Home, Auxiliary - Bethany Lutheran Church

April 18 – Dist 1 – Garretson: 2 PM Meetings: Garretson Legion Post Home, Legion - Post Home, Auxiliary - Post Home, 4:30 PM - sandwiches, coffee and cookies

April 25 – Dist 3 – Watertown: 6 PM - Social - Legion Post Home, 7 PM – Banquet, 8 PM – Meetings: Legion - Post Home, Auxiliary – Ramkota Inn

FROM PIERRE

The following is a report on the legislative measures that are being monitored by your American Legion Legislative Lobbyists in Pierre. A full description of the bills is available in previous issues of the *Up To Now*. In an effort to conserve space in this issue, only the bill designators are used.

HB 1001 - Has been signed by the Governor.

HB 1025 - Passed the House (69-0) on 02/18/09. Is now in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

HB1031 - Passed the House (69-0) on 02/18/09. Is now in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

HB 1270 - Passed the house (55-14) on 02/18/09. Is now in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

SB 9 - Failed to pass the Senate (11-23) on 01/29/09.

SB 43 - Deferred to the 41st Legislative Day by the Senate Taxation Committee (7-0) on 02/03/09.

SB 111 - Tabled by Senate Commerce Committee (5-2) on 02/03/09.

SB 138 - Deferred to the 41st Legislative Day by the Senate State Affairs Committee (5-4) on 02/11/09.

SB 151 - Passed the Senate (33-0) on 02/17/09. Now in the House Transportation Committee.

SB 167 - Deferred to the 41st Legislative Day by the Senate State Affairs Committee (7-2) on 02/18/09.

SCR 3 - Senate Passed (21-13) on 02/12/09. Received a DO PASS recommendation from the House State Affairs Committee (Unanimous) on 02/25/09. Will go to the floor of the House of Representatives.

BOYS STATE PROMOTIONAL VIDEO

National Headquarters has produced an excellent video to assist Posts in promoting The American Legion Boys and Girls State programs. One portion of the DVD, which is the actual portion that is important for viewing by the students who are contemplating the Boys State or Girls State program is available on the internet. Those wishing to view the video may do so by visiting the website www.boysandgirlsstate.org. This website also has a promotional poster which can be downloaded and printed out.

This is an excellent tool to assist your Post in increasing the interest for these very important programs.

MEMBERSHIP AWARDS

A Post honor ribbon award will be presented to all Posts whose 2009 membership as of December 31, 2009 exceeded their membership as of December 31, 2008. The Posts earning this award are: Tea #266, Brandon #318, Humboldt #62, Davis #176, Alcester #86, Elkton #198, Badger #260, Howard #145, Egan #97, Carpenter #153, Gary #109, Grenville #267, Langford #141, Rosholt #48, Cresbard #213, Onaka #270, Orient #178, Miller #38, Polo #299, Salem #140, Artesian #47, Geddes #56, Lake Andes #10, Alsen #44, Menno #152, Burke #28, Midland #143, Edgemont #172, Oelrichs #238, Wall #246, Batesland #281, Herreid #170.

District 3 Commander Byron Callies received the District Commander's Award for having enrolled 90% of its assigned membership goal with no goose egg Posts by the January 13, 2009, target date. District 3 was at 90.06%.

No Area Vice Commanders attained the 90% of their assigned membership goal with no goose egg Posts by the January 13, 2009 target date.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

2009 membership stands at or % of the Department's 2009 membership goal. Keep up the good work. Let's go out and renew the remaining members and sign up all the eligible veterans.

State Commander Jim Huls has pledged 92.75% of our 2009 membership goal by The American Legion Birthday Membership Target Date to National Commander David Rehbein. Making this pledge has the potential of bringing \$2,000 in prize money into the Department to be used for technology upgrades in our computer equipment. This prize money would be a shot in the arm for our 2009 Department budget. Help make sure that your local Post makes every attempt possible to contact all your members who have not yet submitted their 2009 membership dues to The American Legion.