



Up To Now!



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DISTRICT LEGIONNAIRES OF THE YEAR SELECTED

During the 2009 Spring District Convention, Department Commander Huls is recognizing all Post Legionnaires of the year and the District Executive Committee in each District is selecting one of the Post Legionnaires as the District Legionnaire of the Year for their respective Districts.

Congratulations to the following Legionnaires who were selected as District Legionnaires of the Year during the recently completed 2009 Spring District Conventions:

- District 4 – Michael Schreiner of Otto-Quande-Renville Post #50 of Sisseton
- District 10 - Charlie Walker of Pierre Post #8 of Pierre
- District 14 – James Schaffer of Roy S. Hickman Post #78 of Leola
- District 7 – Edward Kokesh of Greer Post #11 of Wagner
- District 8 - James Sundall of Johnson – Peterson Post #179 of Kennebec - Reliance

Each of these individuals will be eligible for the competition for The American Legion Department of South Dakota Legionnaire of the Year at the 2009 Department Convention in Huron, June 25-28.

DISTRICT AND COUNTY ELECTIONS

This year at the Spring District Convention, District Commanders and Vice Commanders are being elected to two-year terms in the odd numbered Districts. Additionally, County Commanders are being elected to one-year terms in all Districts unless those leaders have already been named by an established county council.

Elected as County Commanders were the following individuals:

March 20 (District 4 at Sisseton) – LeRoy Lault of Webster, Day County; John Fox of Stockholm, Grant County; Mike Forrester of Britton, Marshall County; Delano Renville of Waubay, Roberts County.

March 21 (District 14 at Mobridge) – Larry Nupen of Aberdeen, Brown County; Dennis Bates of Herreid, Campbell County; Kenneth Vilhauer of Hosmer, Edmunds County; Derald Mack of Leola, McPherson County; Arthur Jung of Selby, Walworth County.

March 22 (District 10 at Onida) – Oliver Redden of Pierre, Hughes County; Ken Brueggeman of Highmore, Hyde County; Francis Karst of Hoven, Potter County; Ed Duffy of Fort Pierre, Stanley County; Steve Stier of Onida, Sully County.

March 27 (District 7 at Wakonda) – James Hornstra of Springfield, District Commander; Roy King of Armour, District Vice Commander; Leonard Cimpl of Tabor, Bon Homme County; Jay Youngbluth of Wagner, Charles Mix County; Roger Kozak of Vermillion, Clay County; Roy King of Armour, Douglas County; Don J. List of Yankton, Yankton County; Hutchinson County to be announced.

March 28 (District 8 at Colome) – Don Young of Herrick, Gregory County; Wayne E. Monson of Reliance, Lyman County; Kenneth Van Kekerix of Witten, Tripp County.

Eugene Iron Shell of Rosebud, Todd County (District 9).

SPRING DISTRICT CONVENTIONS CONTINUE

District 6 – Friday, April 3, 2009, Kimball American Legion Post Home, 7:00 p.m. Social - 5:00 p.m. at Legion Post Home, Dinner – 6:00 p.m. at Legion Post Home. Auxiliary also meets at the Legion Post Home, same schedule.

District 5 – Saturday, April 4, 2009, Cresbard Community Center 7:00 p.m. Social – 5:00 p.m. at Cresbard Community Center, Banquet – 6:00 p.m. at Cresbard Community Center. Auxiliary meeting to be announced.

District 2 – Friday, April 17, 2009, Howard American Legion Post Home, 7:30 p.m. Social – 5:30 p.m. at Legion Post Home, Banquet 6:30 p.m. at Legion Post Home. Auxiliary meets at Bethany Lutheran Church.

District 1 – Saturday, April 18, 2009, Garretson American Legion Post Home, 2:00 p.m. Sandwiches, coffee, and cookies at 4:30 p.m. Auxiliary also meets at the Legion Post Home.

District 3 – Saturday, April 25, 2009, Watertown American Legion Post Home, 8:00 p.m. Social – 6:00 p.m. at Legion Post Home, Banquet – 7:00 p.m. at Legion Post Home. Auxiliary meets at the Ramkota Inn.

CONSOLIDATED POST REPORTS

Department Commander Jim Huls is urging more Posts to submit the Consolidated Post Reports this year. This report is utilized by National Headquarters to compile the annual report that is provided to congress to report on the activities of The American Legion.

The Consolidated Post Report is one of the most important documents that your Post can complete and submit. The form may appear complicated and look like it takes a lot of time and effort to complete – but if your Post has kept fairly good records during the course of the past year you will find that it is quite easy to compile the information required. Your Post is not expected to have something to report in each and every category or on every other line of the report. The Consolidated Post Report is on the SD Legion website sdlegion@dailypost.com.

REMINDER: The submission of the CPR is one of the seven mandatory items required to be designated as a Dakota Dream Post. The deadline for submitting Consolidated Post Reports to State Headquarters in Watertown is June 1, 2009.

CERTIFICATION OF 2010 POST OFFICERS

Post Adjutants are reminded that they have a responsibility to certify the Post's 2010 officers to Department Headquarters in Watertown. This certification process is one of the last official duties of the outgoing Post Adjutant. The form for certifying your 2010 Post Officers can be found in the 2008-2009 SD American Legion Adjutants' Administrative and Awards Manual. Immediately behind page 12, in that manual there is a white sheet that explains the certification process and the very next page is the green-colored Post Officers Certification Form.

Newly elected Post Officers will not be placed on mailing lists by State or National Headquarters nor will they be recognized as Post Officers by either headquarters until they have been certified. Additionally, Posts will not receive their 2010 membership cards until this certification process is completed.

Complete information requested on the form is required. All blanks must be filled in. We cannot certify officers without their dates of service (enlistment and discharge dates). We must have complete mailing addresses, phone numbers, Legion membership ID#, and would appreciate having the officer's email address if they have one.

All members being certified must be members in good standing – this means they must have already paid their 2009 membership dues. If any information is missing, including the payment of 2009 membership dues, your officer will not be certified.

INVITATIONS TO HOST CONVENTIONS/MIDWINTERS

Invitations are being accepted from Posts wishing to host the 2012, 2013 and 2014 South Dakota American Legion State Conventions and the 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014 South Dakota American Legion Mid-Winter Conferences.

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The offers must be submitted in writing by the prospective host Post, signed by the Post Commander and attested to by the Post Adjutant. Invitation must reach State Headquarters in Watertown by Monday June 8, 2009.

Invitations must consider all available facilities and accommodations. The Convention Next Meeting Place Committee will consider the invitation during its convention meeting at the State Convention in Huron, on Friday afternoon, June 26, 2009.

Information for completing an invitation and actual bid forms are available from State Headquarters in Watertown. Posts must follow the directions provided to be eligible to bid for these activities. Verbal invitations will not be accepted at the Convention Next Meeting Place Committee's review of the bids/invitations.

Invitations should be submitted to the State Adjutant, American Legion State Headquarters, PO Box 67, Watertown, SD 57201.

DAKOTA DREAM POSTS

The Dakota Dream Post award was initiated by Past Department Commander Phil Anderson of Piedmont. The award is designed to recognize those American Legion Posts within the Department of South Dakota that are truly taking care of their members and working the programs of The American Legion.

The checklist for eligibility for this award contains 25 items which have been identified as being present in a Dream Post. In order to qualify for this award, your Post must satisfy 20 of the 25 listed items on the criteria listing. Those items that are flagged with a star are required items that must be satisfied. Deadline for qualifying is May 29, 2009. Applications must be received by Department Headquarters by June 5, 2009. If you have proof of satisfying one of the qualifications that has not been reported on your Post Report, Americanism Report or Consolidated Post Report – please include copy with your application form.

Posts that qualify for the Dakota Dream Post designation will receive a specially designed plaque that can be displayed in their Post Home. The Dakota Dream Post Plaques will be awarded at the Department Convention.

RESOLUTION DEADLINES ARE NEARING

The deadlines are rapidly approaching for resolutions that are to be considered during the 2009 American Legion Department Convention in Huron, June 25-28, 2009.

Resolutions proposing amendments to the South Dakota American Legion Constitution and By-Laws must reach State Headquarters at least six (6) weeks prior to the convention. To meet this deadline, those resolutions must reach Watertown by Thursday, May 14, 2009. This will allow adequate time for the Department Standing Committee on Constitution and By-Laws to consider any proposed changes and transmit that committee's recommendations to the local Posts from State Headquarters.

General resolutions should be submitted to State Headquarters by June 23, 2009 or turned in to the Headquarters desk at the State Convention in Huron, SD, by June 25, 2009. All general resolutions will be reviewed by the Convention Resolutions Committee, which will then assign the resolutions to the appropriate convention committee. The Convention Resolutions Committee will have its initial meeting to assign resolution the morning of Friday, June 26, 2009, during the convention in Huron.

All resolutions must be typewritten, double-spaced, and two copies must be submitted to State Headquarters. Post officials must certify that each resolution was adopted during a regular Post meeting, with the date of the meeting in the resolving clause of the resolution, and the resolutions must be signed by the Post Commander and attested to by the Post Adjutant.

NATIONAL AWARD WINNER ANNOUNCED

Black Hills Service Inc. has been selected as The American Legion 2008 National Winner of the Year in the category of Employer of the Disabled. The VP of Operations or a representative of the company is requested to attend the 91st Annual American Legion National Convention, August 21-27, 2009, in Louisville, Kentucky. Black Hills Service Inc. will be honored on Wednesday, August 26, 2009, with the presentation of a plaque and significant national recognition of their business. They will

receive a \$1200 stipend to defray the cost of airfare, hotel accommodations, and other expenses while attending the National Convention.

THE AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL EMERGENCY FUND

Grants from the American Legion National Emergency Fund are utilized to provide temporary financial assistance to current American Legion members in areas devastated by a declared natural disaster, to include floods, tornadoes, hurricanes, earthquakes and related adverse weather events. *These funds are not designed for insurance compensation or to cover monetary losses from a business, structures on your property, automobiles or equipment.* Individual members (Legion, Auxiliary or Sons of the American Legion) as well as American Legion Posts may apply for this financial assistance. Applicants must be a member in good standing at the time of disaster **AND** at the time of application. Only one grant per household will be approved. Individuals are eligible for a maximum amount of \$1,500 and Posts are eligible for a maximum amount of \$5,000. Your Department Headquarters will determine a recommended amount which will be considered by National Headquarters.

REMINDER TO COUNTY COMMANDERS

Commander Huls has assigned the task of gathering pictures and information on Veterans Memorials to the American Legion County Commanders in their respective counties. With the data compiled an information booklet will be made showing the beautiful Veterans Memorials all across the State of South Dakota. This information has been flowing into State Headquarters but still many county commanders haven't been heard from. Thank you to those County Commanders who have submitted the data and ask those who haven't to please finish the task as soon as you are able.

91st ANNUAL DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

The 91st Annual Department Convention is about 3 months away. The Convention will be held at the Crossroads Hotel and Huron Event Center in Huron. The schedule of events will be similar to past Conventions.

- Thursday, June 25 – Executive Committee
 - Friday, June 26 – Resolutions Committee
Convention Committees
Joint Memorial Services
Joint Banquet
 - Saturday, June 27 – General Assembly Session
No Parade – Alternate activity being planned
Go – Getters Reception/Smorgasbord
 - Sunday, June 28 – General Assembly Continues
Elections
Installation of new officers
Post Convention – Executive Committee Meeting
- Hotels' phone numbers for additional hotels in Huron are:
Comfort Inn, 100 21st St SW, 605-352-6655
Best Western of Huron, 2000 Dakota Ave S, 605-352-2000
Dakota Inn, 924 4th St NE, 605-352-1400
Super 8, S Hwy 37, 605-352-0740

CONVENTION BANQUET TICKETS

Tickets for the Joint Legion/Auxiliary/SAL Banquet at the State Convention will be available through advanced sales only. No tickets will be available at the door.

The banquet will feature a choice of stuffed pork chop or breaded shrimp dinners. The cost for tickets is \$25.00 per ticket. Send requests for tickets to Huron American Legion Post 7, Box 1255, Huron, SD 57350. Deadline for tickets is June 19, 2009.

In your request you must indicate how many stuffed pork chop dinners and/or how many breaded shrimp dinners you are ordering. Send \$25.00 for each dinner ticket ordered.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

2009 membership stands at 23,232 or 92.67% of the 2009 member-