



Up To Now!

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CONVENTION CALL ENCLOSED

Enclosed with this *Up To Now* for all recipients is the Official Call for the 92nd Annual Convention of The American Legion Department of South Dakota. The 92nd Annual Department Convention will be held June 17-20 at the Spearfish Holiday Inn Hotel and Event Center in Spearfish.

Post Adjutants are also receiving the forms for listing the Post's Delegates and Alternate Delegates to the Department Convention. The colored forms, signed by the officers of the Post, are to be mailed to reach Department Headquarters, PO Box 67, Watertown, SD 57201 by June 15, or to be turned in to the Department Headquarters Registration Desk in Spearfish. The 2010 American Legion membership card number for each Delegate and Alternate Delegate is required on the completed forms.

Post Delegate strength for voting purposes at the Department Convention is determined based on Post membership shown on the books of the Department Adjutant 15 days prior to the convention, or this year on June 4. If Posts are holding membership, it can impact on their delegate strength and number of votes the Post is entitled to at the convention. Therefore, it is most beneficial to ensure that all membership is transmitted to Department Headquarters in Watertown to arrive no later than June 4, 2010. Membership turned in at the Department Convention will not be counted for voting strength purposes.

NOTE: The registration fee of \$7 per delegate, regardless of attendance, must accompany delegate forms when they are mailed to Watertown or submitted at the Spearfish Convention Registration Desk. Details are listed on the forms and the official call. In addition, each Post must pay the entire delegate strength registration fee, whether or not all delegates attend the convention. For example: a Post with five delegates must pay \$35, even if only 2 delegates actually attend the convention.

NATIONAL COMMANDER TO VISIT SOUTH DAKOTA

The American Legion National Commander Clarence Hill of the Department of Florida will visit South Dakota, May 10-13, 2010. The visit will take him across South Dakota from east to west, with six main stops to talk to members of The American Legion Family. Functions are being scheduled in Sioux Falls, Watertown, Redfield, Pierre, Piedmont, and Rapid City.

He will arrive in South Dakota at approximately noon on May 10th and will then tour the VA Medical Center in Sioux Falls. The Sioux Falls Post 15 will host a dinner function with The National Commander speaking to the Legion Family. This will be the opportunity for the Southern part of the State to meet and visit with The National Commander of the American Legion.

May 11 will have Commander Hill touring the new CBOC Clinic in Watertown. The American Legion Post 17 of Watertown will host a noon meal with the National Commander addressing the Legion Family in the Northeastern part of the state. The traveling party will proceed to Post 92 in Redfield for a whistle stop to visit with the Legion Family. They will then proceed to Pierre Post 8 for a dinner function where the National Commander will address the Legion Family in the Central part of the State. The traveling party

will go to Rapid City that evening.

May 12th will be spent in the Black Hills of South Dakota. The Commander will tour the VA Home and VA Medical Center in Hot Springs. Piedmont Post 311 will host a noon meal with the National Commander addressing the Legion family in the Northern Part of the State. From there Commander Hill will tour the Black Hills National Cemetery and proceed to Sturgis to tour the Ft. Meade Medical Center. Rapid City Post 22 will host a dinner with the National Commander addressing the Legionnaires in the Western part of the State. Following the dinner, National Commander Hill will go to Mount Rushmore for a program and lighting ceremony.

The National Commander leaves at 9:45 p.m. on May 13th for Chicago.

All American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, Sons of The American Legion, and Legion Riders are encouraged to attend any of these stops to visit with National Commander Clarence Hill and make him feel welcome in visiting our state.

EAGLE SCOUT OF THE YEAR SELECTED

The 2010 Department of South Dakota Eagle Scout of the Year is Thaddeus Jockheck of Troop 128, Redfield, South Dakota. Thaddeus' packet has been forwarded to National Headquarters for competition in the 2010 National Eagle Scout of the Year.

DISTRICT LEGIONNAIRES OF THE YEAR SELECTED

During the 2010 Spring District Convention, Department Commander Martens 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 2010 Spring District Conventions:

- District 5 – Norman Siebrecht of Redfield
- District 6 – Delores Arbach of Chamberlain
- District 14 – Donald R. Gab of Eureka

Each of these individuals will be eligible for the competition for The American Legion Department of South Dakota Legionnaire of the Year at the 2010 Department Convention in Spearfish, June 17-20.

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 even 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 District and District Vice Commanders were the following individuals:

District 6 – District Commander Lyle DeHaai of Chamberlain and District Vice Commander Katie Hine of Wessington Springs.

District 14 – District Commander Dale Strom of Aberdeen and District Vice Commander Gary Oster of Eureka.

Elected as County Commanders were the following:

April 9 (District 14 at Aberdeen) – Gary Warne of Aberdeen,

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Brown County; Dennis Bates of Herreid, Campbell County; Kenneth Vilhauer of Hosmer, Edmunds County; Calvin Neuharth of Eureka, McPherson County; Arthur Jung of Selby, Walworth County.

April 10 (District 5 at Redfield) – Gunner Baatrup of Huron, Beadle County; Albert Goetz of Onaka, Faulk County; Rolland Barrie of Turton, Spink County; To Be Announced, Hand County.

April 11 (District 6 at Mitchell) – Lamont C. Cain Sr. of White Lake, Aurora County; Ron Falor of Kimball, Brule County; Richard Hofer of Mitchell, Davison County; Leonard Teveldal of Wessington Springs, Jerauld County; Preston R. Olson of Bridgewater, McCook County; Keith Senska of Woonsocket, Sanborn County; To Be Announced, Buffalo and Hanson Counties.

SPRING DISTRICT CONVENTIONS CONTINUE

District 4 – Friday, April 16, New Effington Community Center, 5:00 p.m. Social, 6:00 p.m. Banquet, 7:00 p.m. Meeting, Auxiliary meets at the Community Center.

District 3 – Saturday, April 17, Gary American Legion Post Home, 6:00 p.m. Social, 7:00 p.m. Banquet, 8:00 p.m. Meeting, Auxiliary meets at the Post Home.

District 2 – Sunday, April 18, Brookings American Legion Post Home, 12:00 Noon Social, 12:30 p.m. Meal, 1:30 p.m. Meeting, Auxiliary meets at the VFW.

District 1 – Sunday, April 25, Tea American Legion Post Home, 2:00 p.m. Meeting, 5:00 p.m. Social, 6:00 p.m. Banquet, Auxiliary meets at the Tea Area Historical Society.

CONSOLIDATED POST REPORTS

Department Commander Rod Martens 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.org.

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, 2010.

CERTIFICATION OF 2011 POST OFFICERS

Post Adjutants are reminded that they have a responsibility to certify the Post's 2011 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 2011 Post Officers can be found in the *2009-2010 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 2011 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 2010 membership dues. If any information is missing, including the payment of 2010 membership dues, your officer will not be certified.

RESOLUTION DEADLINES ARE NEARING

The deadlines are rapidly approaching for resolutions that are to be considered during the 2010 American Legion Department Convention in Spearfish, June 17-20, 2010.

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 Friday, May 14, 2010. 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 14, 2010 or turned in to the Headquarters desk at the State Convention in Spearfish, SD, by June 17, 2010. 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 18, 2010, during the convention in Spearfish.

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.

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 Sliced Roast Beef in a mushroom and caramelized onion demi or Oven Roasted Airline Chicken dinners. The cost for tickets is \$25.00 per ticket. Send requests for tickets to Jerry Lolley, PO Box 181, Sturgis, SD 57785. Deadline for tickets is June 11, 2010.

In your request you must indicate how many Sliced Roast Beef in a mushroom and caramelized onion demi dinners and/or how many Oven Roasted Airline Chicken dinners you are ordering. Send \$25.00 for each dinner ticket.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

2010 membership stands at 22,461 or 91.64% of the 2010 membership goal. Many Posts have achieved 100% membership and many are close to achieving this goal. Make sure your membership team personally contacts the members who haven't renewed. If you are waiting for these members to mail in their renewals, it probably isn't going to happen.

Commander Martens wants to thank all legionnaires who have worked on their Posts membership goal. Membership is the backbone of The American Legion.