



# Up To Now!



Ron Boyd – Department Adjutant – Public Relations Officer  
Dennis Brenden – Assistant Department Adjutant  
www.sdlegion.org – Email: sdlegion@dailypost.com

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## 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:

April 3 (District 6 at Kimball) – Lamont C. Cain of White Lake, Aurora County; Gene Hamilton of Mitchell, Brule County; Rich Hofer of Mitchell, Davison County; Preston Olson of Bridgewater, McCook County; Melvin Moore of Artesian, Sanborn County; Buffalo County, Hanson County, and Jerauld County to be announced.

## 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 Legionnaire who was selected as District Legionnaire of the Year during the recently completed 2009 Spring District Convention:

District 6 – Marvin Godber of Letcher Post #93

This individual 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.

## UPDATE ON SPRING DISTRICT CONVENTIONS

District 5 Spring Convention was postponed due to weather and has been rescheduled for Thursday, April 30. The social will begin at 5:00 p.m., with dinner at 6:00 p.m. and the meeting to follow at 7:00 p.m.

District 1 Spring Convention at Garretson will host a banquet after the meeting. The meeting begins at 2:00 p.m., with an intermission following the meeting, social will begin at 4:30 p.m. and the banquet will start at approximately 5:00 p.m.

## REMAINING SCHEDULE OF SPRING MEETINGS

April 17 – District 2 – Howard: 5:30 p.m. social, 6:30 p.m. banquet, 7:30 p.m. meeting: Legion - Post Home, Auxiliary meets at Bethany Lutheran Church.

April 18 – District 1 – Garretson: 2 p.m. meeting, 4:30 p.m. social, 5:00 p.m. banquet: Legion - Post Home, Auxiliary – Post Home.

April 25 – District 3 – Watertown: 6 p.m. social, 7 p.m. banquet, 8 p.m. meeting: Legion – Post Home, Auxiliary – Ramkota Inn.

April 30 – District 5 – Cresbard: 5:00 p.m. social, 6:00 p.m. dinner, 7:00 p.m. meeting: Legion – Cresbard Community Center, Auxiliary TBA.

## NATIONAL ORATORICAL FINALS

The National Oratorical Contest will be conducted April 17-19, 2009, at the Indiana University-Purdue University at the Indianapolis Conference Center & Hotel, Indianapolis, Indiana. Meg Henrickson of Yankton will represent The American Legion Department of South Dakota in the contest. Meg and her chaperone's expenses will be picked up by The American Legion. Meg will receive \$1,500 in schol-

arship awards for participating; if she advances beyond the first round, she will receive an additional \$1,500 in scholarship awards. First place winner receives \$18,000, second place receives \$16,000 and third place receives \$14,000 in scholarship awards.

## THANK YOU FROM DISTRICT 1 COMMANDER SIEVERT

On behalf of my wife Beverly, our family and myself, I wish to take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks to all of you for the numerous cards, well wishes, and flowers received during my prolonged illness following surgery. The outpouring of well wishes, greetings and prayers was very much appreciated by us all. You may rest assured that you, The Legion Family, are being held near and dear to my heart. Thank you, R.E. Sievert, District 1 Commander, Candidate for Department Commander.

## 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. We only ask that you report on the information that pertains to your Post.

**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.

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## INVITATIONS TO HOST STATE 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 MidWinter Conferences.

The offers must be submitted in writing by the prospective host Post, signed by the Post Commander and attested to by the Post Adjutant. Invitations 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 check list 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.

## 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.

## 91<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

The 91<sup>st</sup> Annual Department Convention is about 2½ 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 23,366 or 93.21% of the 2009 membership goal. Keep up the good work and let's finish the year at 100%.