



Up To Now!

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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 and Veterans Park. The Sioux Falls Post 15 will host a dinner function with The National Commander speaking to the Legion Family.

May 11th 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 9:25 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.

DISTRICT SPRING CONVENTIONS CONCLUDE

The annual Spring District Conventions concluded with District 1 in Tea, April 25, 2010. Commander Martens would like to thank all Legionnaires that turned out for the Conventions. Many of the District meetings had attendance in excess of 60 Legionnaires. Lots of good information and comradeship was shared among the Legionnaires in the Districts. The Commander congratulates all the District Legionnaires of the Year and wishes all newly elected officers the best during their term.

DISTRICT LEGIONNAIRES OF THE YEAR SELECTED

During the 2010 Spring District Conventions, 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 4 – Tara Healy of Milbank

District 3 – Ralph Perkins of Gary

District 2 – Loren Scott of Howard

District 1 - Larry Hovde of Dell Rapids

These Legionnaires 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 Conventions, 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 4 – District Commander Russ McKee of Claire City (member of New Effington Post) and District Vice Commander Neil Long of Sisseton.

District 2 – District Commander Betty “Sam” Vaughn of Brookings and District Vice Commander Jim Rentschler of Howard.

Elected as County Commanders were the following:

April 16 (District 4 at New Effington) – Gary Knebel of Roslyn, Day County; Dan Scoblic of Big Stone City, Grant County; Mike Forrester of Britton, Marshall County; and Delano Renville of Waubay, Roberts County.

April 17 (District 3 at Gary) – Gary Holdal of Clark, Clark County; John Harper of Watertown, Codington County; Harlan Berndt of Canby, Minn, Deuel County; and Dean Steever of Bryant, Hamlin County.

April 18 (District 2 at Brookings) – Myron Downs of Madison, Lake County; Kathleen Quinn of Howard, Miner County; Harlyn Bokker of Trent, Moody County; Brookings and Kingsbury Counties to be announced.

April 25 (District 1 at Tea) – Richard D. Loe of Canton, Lincoln County; Darwin Wahlert of Sioux Falls, Minnehaha County; Lee E. Rist of Centerville, Turner County; and Harlan Tiedeman of Beresford, Union County.

SIX LEGIONNAIRES GOING TO INDIANAPOLIS

Six South Dakota Legionnaires will be departing this weekend for National Headquarters in Indianapolis to attend the annual Spring Committee/Commission Meetings of The American Legion during the period of May 3-6.

Called to Indianapolis are National Executive Committeeman Paul Evenson of Sioux Falls (member of the Garretson American Legion Post), Americanism Commission Member PDC Larry Price of Redfield, National Convention Committee Member PDC Gunner Baatrup of Huron (member of the Virgil American Legion Post), Internal Affairs Commission Member PDC Don Mason of Platte, Children and Youth Commission Member PDC Ron Tolrud of White, and National Vice Commander Eugene Schumacher of Aberdeen.

68th BOYS STATE SESSION TO START

The 68th Annual Session of American Legion Boys State of South Dakota will commence on the campus of Northern State Uni-

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versity in Aberdeen on Monday, May 31. The session is scheduled to run through Friday, June 4.

447 young men from across South Dakota, all between their Junior and Senior years in high school, are enrolled for this premier American Legion Americanism program. The program teaches democracy, the political process and demonstrates our form of government to these future leaders of South Dakota and America.

State Commander Rod Martens of Black Hawk has declared Thursday, June 3rd, as Legion Day at Boys State. Please come to Boys State and enjoy the day with the boys.

NEW DISTRICT COMMANDER SEMINAR

The New District Commanders' Seminar is scheduled for the weekend of May 15-16, in Oacoma. The seminar is being held at the Oacoma Days Inn, I-90, Exit 260.

The schedule of topics for the seminar include: Roles and Responsibilities of a District Commander, Leadership, Americanism Programs, Children and Youth, Membership, Finance, Budget, Public Relations, Post Visits, Legislative Priorities, Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, Department Policy Manual, and District Commander Expenses.

The seminar sessions will be facilitated by State Commander Rod Martens, NEC Paul Evenson, Alternate NEC Phil Anderson, State Adjutant Denny Brenden, State Finance Officer Gary Wolkow, DSO Warren Aas, Americanism Chairman Byron Callies, Legislative Chairman Gerald Goetzinger, C&Y Chairman Jeff Hrabanek, and State Membership Chairman Wayne Rohde.

2010 NATIONAL LEGION COLLEGE

Department Headquarters is accepting applications for the National American Legion College. The College will be held in Indianapolis, IN, October 24-29, 2010. Applications should be submitted and received by State Headquarters in Watertown, by June 15, 2010. Candidates must have military service since 1982 or later and must have completed The American Legion Extension Institute correspondence course prior to submitting their application.

Applications will be reviewed by a panel of Past Department Commanders at the State Convention in Spearfish. The application chosen by the PDCs will be forwarded to National Headquarters to be screened by a panel of Past National Commanders during the National Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and their selections will be announced by National Headquarters shortly after the conclusion of the National Convention.

Application forms can be obtained from State Headquarters in Watertown or from The American Legion National Website at www.legion.org.

NATIONAL ORATORICAL FINALS RESULTS

The seventy-third National Finals were held April 10-11, at the University Place Conference Center and Hotel, Indianapolis, Indiana. The 53 Department winners were all outstanding representatives of today's youth. First Place winner was Victoria Black of South Carolina, second place winner was Elizabeth Blessing of Alabama, and third place went to Brooke Connor of Vermont.

Department of South Dakota Oratorical winner, Joe Schwartz, did not reach the National semi-finals but will receive \$1,500 for competing in the National Oratorical finals.

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

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. The Convention Resolutions Committee will have its initial meeting to assign resolutions to the appropriate committee the morning of Friday, June 18, 2010, during the convention in Spearfish.

92nd ANNUAL DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

The 92nd Annual Department Convention is about a month and a half away. The Convention will be held at the Holiday Inn Hotel and Convention Center in Spearfish. The schedule of events will be similar to past Conventions.

Thursday, June 17 – Administrative Committee
Executive Committee

Friday, June 18 – Resolutions Committee
Convention Committees
Joint Memorial Services
Joint Banquet

Saturday, June 19 – General Assembly Session
No Parade – Social
Go – Getters Reception/Smorgasbord

Sunday, June 20 – General Assembly Continues
Elections
Installation of new officers
Post Convention – Executive Committee Meeting

Hotels' phone numbers for additional hotels in Spearfish are:

Fairfield Inn by Marriott of Spearfish, 2720 1st Ave. E.,
605-642-3500

Howard Johnson Express Inn of Spearfish, I-90 & Exit 14,
605-642-8105

Quality Inn of Spearfish, 2725 1st Ave., 605-642-2337

Roadway Inn & Suites of Spearfish, I-90 & Exit 14,
605-642-2350

Please inform the Hotels, that you are attending The American Legion Convention. Special rates are available from some Hotels.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

2010 membership stands at 22,548 or 91.99% of the 2010