



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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CONVENTION CALL ENCLOSED

Enclosed with this *Up To Now* for all recipients is the Official Call for the 91st Annual Convention of The American Legion Department of South Dakota. The 91st Annual Department Convention will be held June 25-28 at the Crossroads Hotel and Huron Event Center in Huron.

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 24th, or to be turned in to the Department Headquarters Registration Desk in Huron. The 2009 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 12th. 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 12, 2009. 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 Headquarters Registration Desk in Huron. 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.

Also enclosed in this issue of the *Up To Now* are bulletins on the Handicapped veterans elk hunt and free camping for military families at Monfore Park.

TRIBUTE TO OUR TROOPS INVITATION

The American Legion Family is invited to Oahe Days at Steamboat Park, June 19, Pierre, S.D., for a night of fun, relaxation and entertainment. The communities of Pierre and Ft. Pierre would like to honor our men and women in uniform; our heroes, our veterans, and their families.

The weekend kicks off with a parade at 6:00 p.m., MX Freestyle Motocross Show at 7:00 p.m., a "Tribute To Our Troops" celebration at 8:00 p.m, and live music by Judd Hoos at 9:30 p.m.

There is also a beer garden, many craft and food vendors, and numerous activities and events throughout the weekend. For a full list of weekend activities go to www.oahedays.com.

HATS IN THE RING

Bergstrom-Bodeen Post #128 of Hudson has unanimously endorsed Mark Weinmann for the office of State Vice Commander for the Area consisting of Districts 1 and 7.

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 District Commanders and District Vice Commanders

were; District 1 Commander Richard Ekle of Canton and District 1 Vice Commander Wayne Rohde of Brandon; District 3 Commander Paul Setnes of Estelline and District 3 Vice Commander Chuck Greenfield of Castlewood.

Elected as County Commanders were the following individuals:

April 17 (District 2 at Howard) – Dennis Lundgren of Elkton, Brookings County; William Scholl of Madison, Lake County; James Rentschler of Howard, Miner County; Harlen Bokker of Trent, Moody County; Kingsbury County to be announced.

April 18 (District 1 at Garretson) – Richard Loe of Canton, Lincoln County; Darwin Wahlert of Sioux Falls, Minnehaha County; Lee Rist of Centerville, Turner County; Harlan Tiedemann of Beresford, Union County.

April 25 (District 3 at Watertown) – Mike McGillivray of Clark, Clark County; Hilmer Moen of Watertown, Codington County; Brian Thomas of Gary, Deuel County; Jerry Namken of Hayti, Hamlin County.

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 District.

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

District 2 – Curt Eng of Flandreau

District 1 – David Mousel of Dell Rapids

District 3 – Wolfgang Migge of Watertown

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.

UPDATE ON SPRING DISTRICT CONVENTIONS

District 5 Spring Convention was postponed due to weather and is the only Spring District Convention remaining. It has been rescheduled for April 30 with social beginning at 5:00 p.m., dinner at 6:00 p.m., and the meeting to follow at 7:00 p.m. The American Legion will meet at the Cresbard Community Center and the Auxiliary is to be announced.

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 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.

CONTINUED ON BACK

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 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 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 invitations 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.

SEVEN LEGIONNAIRES GOING TO INDIANAPOLIS

Seven 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 3-7.

Called to Indianapolis are National Executive Committeeman Paul Evenson, of Sioux Falls (member of the Garretson American Legion Post), Alternate National Executive Committeeman 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, and member of the Children and Youth Commission PDC Ron Tolrud of White. Also attending are Department Adjutant Ron Boyd and Assistant Department Adjutant Denny Brenden.

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 Ameri-

can 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 resolutions 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.

91st ANNUAL DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

The 91st Annual Department Convention is about 2 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,
6005-352-200
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 23,496 or 93.73% of the 2009 membership goal. Let's finish the membership year at 100%.