



Up To Now!

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NATIONAL COMMANDER ARRIVES IN STATE

National Commander Clarence Hill arrived in Sioux Falls on May 10th to begin a three day tour of the State of South Dakota. Commander Hill toured the VA Medical Center in Sioux Falls, then to Veterans Memorial Park, and finally to Post 15 American Legion Post Home for a dinner and meeting.

May 11th, the Commander traveled to Watertown for many stops including a lunch and meeting at the American Legion Post 17 Home. On to Redfield for a whistle stop at the American Legion Post 92 Home. After visiting with members of the Legion Family, The traveling party went to American Legion Post 8 Home in Pierre for a dinner and meeting. After the social event, the traveling party drove to Rapid City for the evening.

May 12th, will have the National Commander touring the State Veterans Home, VA Medical Facilities and the Black Hills National Cemetery. A lunch/meeting stop is planned at Piedmont Post 311 and a dinner/meeting stop at the Rapid City Post 22. The evening will conclude with a dedication and lighting ceremony at Mount Rushmore.

Commander Hill leaves 9:45 a.m. on May 13 from Rapid City.

COUNTY ELECTIONS

Elected as County Commanders were the following individuals: Blaine Hoff of Volga, Brookings County; Scott Ingalls of DeSmet, Kingsbury County; Eugene Iron Shell of Rosebud, Todd County.

EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to Angela Bly of Garretson who has been selected as The American Legion Department of South Dakota 2010 Educator of the Year. Bly was selected by the Department Educational Loan Committee from a field of four very highly qualified and deserving nominees.

Bly will be recognized at the Department Convention in Spearfish. She will be the guest of the Department at the Joint Legion, Auxiliary and SAL Banquet on Friday evening and will be the recipient of a presentation from State Commander Rod Martens during Saturday's General Assembly.

BIDS TO HOST STATE CONVENTIONS/MIDWINTERS

Invitations are being accepted from Posts wishing to host the 2013, 2014, and 2015 South Dakota American Legion State Conventions and the 2014 and 2015 South Dakota American Legion Mid-Winter 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 14, 2010.

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 Spearfish, on Friday afternoon, June 18, 2010.

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.

CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN AND LIAISONS

State Commander Rod Martens of Black Hawk has announced the following appointments of SD Legionnaires to serve as Convention Committee Chairmen and Liaisons for the 92nd Annual Department Convention in Spearfish:

- Resolutions Committee – Chairman, LuVerne Boes of Hermosa; Liaison, Ken Orrock of Rapid City.
- Americanism Committee – Chairman, Hans Nelson of Veblen; Liaison, Byron Callies of Watertown.
- Credentials Committee – Chairman, Kathi Quinn of Howard; Liaison, Gary Wolkow of DeSmet.
- Employment Committee – Chairman, Duane Riedlinger of Piedmont; Liaison, Gary Warne of Aberdeen.
- Internal Organization Committee – Chairman, Wayne Monson of Reliance; Liaison, Rick MacDonald of Hermosa
- Legislative Committee – Chairman, Hugh Holmes of Mitchell; Liaison, Gerald Goetzinger of Martin.
- National Security Committee – Chairman, Ron Kazmierczak of Hill City; Liaison, Gene Tornow of Sioux Falls.
- Next Meeting Place Committee – Chairman, Hilmer Moen of Watertown; Liaison, Gunner Baatrup of Virgil
- Rehabilitation Committee – Chairman, Larry Rounsevell of Nemo; Liaison, Wayne "Red" Vetter of Cresbard.
- Rules Committee – Chairman, Mark Weinmann of Hudson; Liaison, Rich McBrayer of Ethan.

The initial meeting of the Convention Resolutions Committee will be at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, June 18, 2010 in the Holiday Inn Hotel and Convention Center in Spearfish SD. At this meeting the Convention Resolutions Committee will review all general resolutions which have been submitted by the Posts within the Department and determine which resolutions will be routed to the various other Convention Committees. All Convention Committees will convene at 1:30 p.m. on Friday, June 18 in various assigned rooms of the Convention Center to review the resolutions which have been routed to their respective committee and to prepare their Convention Committee Reports.

Convention Committee Chairmen will all meet with State Commander Martens and State Adjutant Brenden at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, June 18, to receive their operational briefings.

AMERICANISM COMMISSION TO MEET

The South Dakota American Legion Department Americanism Commission will hold its annual summer meeting during the American Legion Boys State Session in Aberdeen, on Thursday, June 3rd. The meeting is for the purpose of reviewing and judging the 2009-2010 Post Americanism Reports to determine the award winners who will be announced at the State Convention in Spearfish.

The Department Americanism Commission consists of the Department Americanism Officer Byron Callies of Watertown, Jerome Johnson of Garretson, Russ Edwards of Lead, Bob Brodkorb of Wolsey and Ron Kazmierczak of Hill City.

2010 FIREFIGHTER & LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

Congratulations to Jenny Tschetter of Yale who has been selected as The American Legion Department of South Dakota 2010

CONTINUED ON BACK

Firefighter of the Year. Congratulations to Kathleen Adams of Conde who was selected as The American Legion Department of South Dakota 2010 Law Enforcement Officer of the Year.

Tschetter and Adams will be recognized at the Department Convention in Spearfish. They will be the guest of the Department at the Joint Legion, Auxiliary and SAL Banquet on Friday evening and will be the recipient of a presentation from State Commander Rod Martens during Saturday's General Assembly.

68th BOYS STATE SESSION

The 68th Annual Session of American Legion Boys State of South Dakota will commence on the campus of Northern State University in Aberdeen on Monday, May 31. The session is scheduled to run through Friday, June 4.

450 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 this 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.

SDALPA LUNCHEON SCHEDULED

The South Dakota American Legion Press Association will host it's annual luncheon/meeting during the State Convention, in Spearfish, at 11:30 a.m., Friday, June 18, 2010, in the Willow Room. Tickets will be available at the registration desk.

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. 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.

All members being certified must be members in good standing – this means they must have already paid their 2010 membership dues.

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. This will allow adequate time for the Department Standing Committee on Constitution and By-Laws to consider any proposed changes and transmit the committee's recommendations to all 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.

92nd ANNUAL DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

The 92nd Annual Department Convention is about a month 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 – 10:00 a.m. Administrative Committee

1:00 p.m. Executive Committee

Friday, June 18 – 10:00 a.m. Resolutions Committee

1:30 p.m. Convention Committees

4:30 p.m. Joint Memorial Services

7:00 p.m. Joint Banquet

Saturday, June 19 – 9:00 a.m. General Assembly Session

4:00 p.m. Social (No Parade)

6:00 p.m. Go- Getters Reception/Smorgasbord

Sunday, June 20 – 9:00 a.m. General Assembly Continues

12:00 noon or earlier Elections

Installation of new officers

Following Convention Adjournment -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

Membership stands at 22,592 or 92.17% of the 2010 department membership goal.