



# Up To Now!



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## DISTRICT AND COUNTY ELECTIONS

The last Spring District Convention was held in Cresbard April 30. This year at the Spring District Convention, District Commanders and District 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 Commander and District Vice Commander were; District 5 Commander Larry Lindhorst of Wecota and District 5 Vice Commander David Johnson of Miller.

Elected as County Commanders were the following individuals: Gunner Bastrup of Virgil, Beadle County Commander; Rod Fortune of Rockham, Faulk County Commander; Leo Istas of Miller, Hand County Commander; Rolland Barrie of Turton, Spink County Commander.

Also elected in District 2 was Kingsbury County Commander Terry Hanson of Arlington.

## DISTRICT LEGIONNAIRE OF THE YEAR

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 Legionnaire who was selected as District Legionnaire of the Year during the recently completed 2009 Spring District Convention:  
District 5 – David Nichols of Redfield.

## TRIBUTE TO OUR TROOPS INVITATION

The American Legion Family is invited to Oahe Days at Steamboat Park in Pierre, SD, June 19, 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](http://www.oahedays.com).

## 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.

## EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to Kim Bertram of Colome who has been selected as The American Legion Department of South Dakota 2009 Educator of the Year. Bertram was selected by the Department Educational Loan Committee from a field of three very highly qualified and deserving nominees.

Bertram will be recognized at the Department Convention in Huron. 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 Jim Huls during Saturday’s General Assembly.

## 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.

142 Posts have not yet certified their 2010 officers – Are your 2010 Post Officers certified? If not – please do so NOW!

## BIDS 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 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 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.

**CONTINUED ON BACK**

Invitations should be submitted to the State Adjutant, American Legion State Headquarters, PO Box 67, Watertown, SD 57201.

### **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 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.

### **91<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL DEPARTMENT CONVENTION**

The 91<sup>st</sup> Annual Department Convention is about a month and a half 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  
Joint Legion/Auxiliary/SAL Session  
Go – Getters Reception/Smorgasbord
- Sunday, June 28 – General Assembly Continues  
Elections  
Installation of new officers  
Post Convention – Executive Committee Meeting

### **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.

### **NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER LANDKAMER VISIT SD**

National Vice Commander Michael J. Landkamer will visit the Department of South Dakota June 26-27 and will be the featured keynote speaker at the Friday, June 26 Joint Legion, Auxiliary, SAL Banquet.

Michael J. Landkamer was elected National Vice Commander of The American Legion on August 28, 2008 during the closing session of the 90th National Convention in Phoenix.

A former Navy petty officer, Landkamer served aboard the USS

Ranger with Fighter Squadron 154 (VF-154) in the Gulf of Tonkin. He works as a comfort advisor for Total Comfort Heating and Air Conditioning, Inc.

Landkamer has held many leadership positions at The American Legion post, department (state) and national levels. He is a member and past commander of Post 84 in Columbus, Neb. A former Nebraska state commander, he has served on The American Legion's National Foreign Relations Commission, National Legislative Council, National Executive Committee (NEC) Liaison to Public Relations Commission, and the NEC Subcommittee on Committees.

Landkamer is married to Columbus native Patricia A. Landkamer. He has three children and two stepchildren. He is the chairman of the Platte County Nebraska Veterans Service Committee and a 33-year-member of The American Legion.

### **67<sup>th</sup> BOYS STATE SESSION TO START**

The 67<sup>th</sup> Annual Session of American Legion Boys State of South Dakota will commence on the campus of Northern State University in Aberdeen on Monday, June 1. The session is scheduled to run through Saturday, June 6.

428 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.

They will be divided into two fictitious political parties, Nationalists and Federalists, and will form cities, counties, and a fictitious 51<sup>st</sup> state, and the governmental bodies necessary to administer each during their week in Aberdeen. The program culminates with the election of the state government to include a Governor, Lt. Governor, Secretary of State, a legislature composed of a Senate and a House of Representatives, and a court system to include a supreme court.

State Commander Jim Huls of Madison has declared Thursday, June 4th, as Legion Day at Boys State and encourages all Legionnaires to travel to Aberdeen on that day to witness this program in action.

### **NEW DISTRICT COMMANDER SEMINAR**

The New District Commanders' Seminar is scheduled for this weekend, May 16 – 17, 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 Jim Huls, NEC Paul Evenson, Alternate NEC Larry Price, State Adjutant Ron Boyd, Assistant State Adjutant Denny Brenden, State Finance Officer Eugene Schumacher, DSO Warren Aas, Americanism Chairman Larry Madsen, C&Y Chairman Betty "Sam" Vaughn, and State Membership Chairman LaVaun Holan.

### **2009 NATIONAL LEGION COLLEGE**

Department Headquarters is accepting applications for the National American Legion College. The College will be held in Indianapolis, IN, October 25-30, 2009. Applications should be submitted to State Headquarters in Watertown, by June 19, 2009. 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 Huron. 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 Louisville, Kentucky 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](http://www.legion.org).

**MEMBERSHIP UPDATE**

2009 membership stands at 23,548 or 93.93% of the Department's 2009 membership goal.