



Up To Now!

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NATIONAL COMMANDER TOURS SOUTH DAKOTA

National Commander Clarence Hill of Florida arrived in the State of South Dakota on May 10, 2010. Commander Hill visited American Legion Posts, VA Medical Facilities, Veterans Memorials, and the South Dakota Veterans Home. The tour began in Sioux Falls and he visited Legion Posts on his tour across South Dakota, ending up in the Black Hills. Radio, TV, and newspaper interviews were done all across the State with Hill giving his message to the American Legion Family.

The National Commander stressed that we need to bring our younger veterans into the American Legion. Hill said that the best way to bring them in is to use the social media. The younger veterans are in tune with facebook, blogs, twittering, and use of the internet. He stated that he was using the social media to reach the younger veterans during his year as Commander and that membership by the younger veterans had doubled from the previous year. Commander Hill said the younger veterans have different needs and we need to adapt to their needs. Commander Hill commented that 90% of our members are dues paying members and 10% are the workers. He stated we need both to promote the American Legion.

Due to rain, fog and snow in the Black Hills area, we were not able to visit Mount Rushmore. The Department would like to thank everyone who came out to greet the National Commander. A special thank you to Sioux Falls Post 15, Watertown Post 17, Redfield Post 92, Pierre Post 8, Piedmont Post 311 and Rapid City Post 22 for all their hard work in preparation for the National Commander. The Commander was received very graciously by all The American Legion Family.

92nd ANNUAL DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

The 92nd Annual Department Convention is about three weeks 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.

NVC SCHUMACHER TO ADDRESS BANQUET

National Vice Commander Eugene A. Schumacher, representing the Midwest Region, will be the banquet speaker for the Joint Banquet at the State Convention on June 18, 2010. An Air Force veteran of the Vietnam Era, Schumacher hails from Aberdeen, SD. As a Legionnaire of 43 years, he has held numerous leadership positions at the Post, State and National levels. Schumacher is a member and Past Commander of Aberdeen Post 24. He served previously as Commander of the Department of South Dakota, and has held National positions in the Employment Committee and Legislative Council. He worked as an area manager for Northwestern Public Service Company.

EVENSON HONORED BY VETERANS COMMISSION

NEC Paul Evenson of Garretson was presented a plaque for his many years of service to the veterans of South Dakota on the South Dakota Veterans Commission. Evenson served on the Commission for two six-year terms. NEC Evenson was presented the plaque at the South Dakota Veterans Commission held in Wagner on May 18, 2010.

NEC Evenson, representing The American Legion of South Dakota, also addressed the Commission on the activities and events of the organization.

SD AMERICAN LEGION FOUNDATION BOARD MEETS

The board of directors for the newly formed South Dakota American Legion Foundation met at the Drake Motor Inn, Watertown, SD, on May 24, 2010, to review the By Laws and perform the initial start up business for the Foundation. The By Laws will be presented to the Department Executive Committee on June 17 at the State Convention in Spearfish, for their approval.

Jim Huls of Salem was elected President, LuVerne Boes was elected Vice President and Dennis Brenden was elected Secretary/Treasurer.

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.

GOOD SAMARITAN OF THE YEAR SELECTED

The 2010 American Legion Good Samaritan of the Year is Rick Albrecht of Sioux Falls. Rick is a volunteer at the Sertoma Butterfly House in Sioux Falls. Rick has given over 8,400 hours of volunteering in the last nine years.

Rick was nominated by American Legion Post 307 of Renner.

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 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 14, 2010.

Invitations must consider all available facilities and accommodations. The Convention Next Meeting Place Committee will consider

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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.

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 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

COMMANDER MARTENS TASKS COUNTY COMMANDERS

Commander Rod Martens has tasked all County Commanders to take pictures of all American Legion Post Homes in their respective Counties and send the pictures along with the physical addresses to State Headquarters so that a book can be compiled of all the American Legion Posts and their locations.

CONSOLIDATED POST REPORTS

Department Commander Rod Martens 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 looks 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.

The Consolidated Post Report is on the SD Legion website sdlegion.org.

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 Sliced Roast Beef in a mushroom and caramelized onion demi or Oven Roasted Airline Chicken dinners. The cost for tickets is \$25.00 per ticket. Send requests for tickets to Jerry Lolley, PO Box 181, Sturgis, SD 57785. Deadline for tickets is June 11, 2010.

In your request you must indicate how many Sliced Roast Beef in a mushroom and caramelized onion demi dinners and/or how many Oven Roasted Airline Chicken dinners you are ordering. Send \$25.00 for each dinner ticket.

ATHLETIC COMMISSION TO MEET

The South Dakota American Legion Athletic Commission will meet at 1:00 p.m. at The American Legion Post Home in Pierre, SD on Sunday, June 6, 2010.

The Commission will hear reports from Posts hosting the state golf tournament plus the "B" and Championship baseball tournaments, establish playing schedules and select umpires for the baseball tournaments and possible regional realignment of the baseball teams.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Membership stands at 22,656 or 92.43% of the Department's 2010 membership goal. We need to renew all the members who haven't paid their 2010 membership dues. If you are waiting for these members to mail in their renewals, it probably isn't going to happen. Personal contact needs to be made. We can't afford to lose any members who are eligible to join.