



Up To Now!



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Issued Bi-Weekly from State Headquarters at Watertown, S.D. 57201-0067

Phone (605) 886-3604

No. 3001
2009

May 27,

ENCLOSED FOR ALL RECIPIENTS

Enclosed for all recipients are the minutes and one resolution that originated from the Constitutional and By Laws Committee that met May 23, 2009, at Department Headquarters in Watertown.

DICK SIEVERT PASSES

It is with deep sorrow and regret we announce the passing of Candidate for State Commander Dick Sievert. Dick was a great Legionnaire and will truly be missed. Funeral services were held May 26, 2009, at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls, with burial at Woodland Cemetery. Cards and letters of condolence may be sent to the Sievert family at 5709 W 26th St, Sioux Falls, SD 57106.

EMT AND LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to Mark Bonrud of Flandreau who has been selected as The American Legion Department of South Dakota 2009 EMT of the Year. Congratulations to Christopher Gross of Aberdeen who was selected as The American Legion Department of South Dakota Law Enforcement Officer of the Year.

Bonrud and Gross will be recognized at the Department Convention in Huron. They will be the guests of the Department at the Joint Legion, Auxiliary and SAL Banquet on Friday evening and will be the recipients of presentations from State Commander Jim Huls during Saturday's General Assembly.

67th BOYS STATE SESSION TO START

The 67th 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 51st 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.

HATS IN THE RING

Pierre Post 8 has endorsed retiring State Adjutant Ron Boyd for the office of State Commander of The American Legion for 2009-2010.

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 4th. The meeting is for the purpose of reviewing and judging the 2008-2009 Post Americanism Reports to determine the award winners who will be announced at the State Convention in Huron.

The Department Americanism Commission consists of the Department Americanism Officer Larry Madsen of Gettysburg, Jerome Johnson

of Garretson, Ralph Perkins of Clear Lake (member of the Gary American Legion Post), Bob Brodkorb of Wolsey and Ron Kazmierczak of Hill City.

CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN AND LIAISONS APPOINTED

State Commander Jim Huls of Salem has announced the following appointments of SD Legionnaires to serve as Convention Committee Chairmen and Liaisons for the 91st Annual Department Convention in Huron:

- Resolutions Committee – Chairman, Chris Gross of Brookings; Liaison, Bob Kusser of Pierre.
- Americanism Committee – Chairman, Larry Madsen of Gettysburg; Liaison, Jerome Johnson of Garretson.
- Credentials Committee – Chairman, Gary Wolkow of DeSmet; Liaison, Albert Bekaert of Gary.
- Employment Committee – Chairman, Hans Nelson of Veblen, Liaison, Earl Schultz of Aberdeen.
- Internal Organization Committee – Chairman, Fred Nelson of Spearfish; Liaison, Gunner Bastrup of Huron.
- Legislative Committee – Chairman, Hugh Holmes of Mitchell, Liaison, Gerald Goetzinger of Martin.
- National Security Committee – Chairman, Merle Stone of Wagner, Liaison, Gene Tornow of Sioux Falls.
- Next Meeting Place Committee – Chairman, Hilmer Moen of Watertown; Liaison, Gary Watts of White.
- Rehabilitation Committee – Chairman, Loyson Carda of Lemmon; Liaison, Warren Aas of Watertown.
- Rules Committee – Chairman, Mark Weinmann of Hudson; Liaison, Rich McBryayer of Ethan.

The initial meeting of the Convention Resolutions Committee will be at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, June 26, 2009 in the Crossroads Hotel and Huron Event Center in Huron 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 26 in various assigned rooms of the Huron Event 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 Huls and State Adjutant Boyd at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, June 26, to receive their operational briefings.

91st ANNUAL DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

The 91st Annual Department Convention is about a month 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

CONTINUED ON BACK

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.

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.

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

RESOLUTION DEADLINES

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.

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 and 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.

SDALPA LUNCHEON AT CONVENTION

The South Dakota American Legion Press Association will host its annual luncheon during the State Convention at 11:30 a.m., Friday, June 26, 2009. Tickets will be available at the registration desk.

CONSOLIDATED POST REPORTS

Department Commander Jim Huls is urging all Posts to submit the Consolidated Post Report 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.

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.

104 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 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.