



# Up To Now!



Ron Boyd – Department Adjutant – Public Relations Officer  
Dennis Brenden – Assistant Department Adjutant  
www.sdlegion.org – Email: sdlegion@dailypost.com

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

Phone (605) 886-3604

No. 3002

June 10, 2009

## ENCLOSED IN THIS ISSUE

Enclosed to all Post Adjutants is a letter from the Chairman of the Baseball and Recreation Sub Committee of the National Americanism Commission explaining Resolution No. 9 that was adopted at the Spring Meeting in Indianapolis. This resolution will assess an annual national registration fee of \$50 per American Legion Baseball Team effective January 1, 2010.

Also enclosed to all recipients is a delegate strength membership report.

## AMERICAN LEGION BOYS STATE

The 414 high school boys between their junior and senior years, who were delegates to the 67<sup>th</sup> Annual Session of The American Legion Boys State of South Dakota held their general election for state officers on Friday, June 5th. Election results were:

- Daniel Miller of Watertown – Governor
  - Tyler Stenberg of Mobridge – Lt Governor
  - Richard Marmorstein of Aberdeen – Boys Nation Delegate
  - Zachary Schmidt of Watertown – Boys Nation Delegate
  - Christopher Brockhoft of Winner – Boys Nation Alternate
  - Daniel Swenson of Sioux Falls – Boys Nation Alternate
  - Tyler Bolch of Lesterville – 2009 Samsung Scholarship
  - Alexander Vargo of Rapid City – Attorney General
  - Reekah Delfanian of Brookings – Secretary of State
  - Sam Wilkens of Madison – State Auditor
  - Skyler Eriksen of Presho – State Treasurer
  - Rory Fenske of Rapid City – Commissioner of School and Public Lands
  - Timothy Fountain of Sioux Falls – PUC
  - Wouter Hammink of Brookings – PUC
  - Gatlin Johnson of Groton – PUC
  - Bryce Kummer of Sioux Falls – Supreme Court Justice
  - Zachary Johnson of Sioux Falls – Supreme Court Justice
  - Spencer Gross of Huron – Supreme Court Justice
  - Daniel Swenson of Sioux Falls – Supreme Court Justice
  - Max Bunkers of Colman – Supreme Court Justice
  - James Burkman of Brandon – Chief Justice of Supreme Court
  - Charles Drapeaux of Aberdeen – Speaker of the House
  - Jeffrey Trapp of Milbank – Nationalist Party Chairman
  - Dale Svatos of Lake Andes – Nationalist Party Keynote Speaker
  - Patrick Brende of Sioux Falls – Federalist Party Chairman
  - Zachary Schmidt of Watertown – Federalist Keynote Speaker
  - Samuel Miller of Vermillion – Outstanding Speaker
  - Patrick Brende of Sioux Falls – Outstanding Boys State Citizen.
  - Skyler Eriksen of Presho – Chandler L. Beach Memorial Scholarship, also the recipient of the E. F. “Bud” Elkins Scholarship
  - Justin Bergeson of Hartford – Editor of the Sunshine Scribe
- U. S. Representative Stephanie Herseth Sandlin spoke to the delegates and responded to their questions during their first general assembly on Monday, June 1 and they heard from U.S. Senator John Thune during an assembly on Friday, June 5. Senator Thune also responded to questions from the group. State Senate Majority Leader Scott Heidepriem of Sioux Falls and State Senate Minority Leader Dave Knudson of Sioux Falls spoke during an assembly on “Politics Today” and responded to questions from the group on Wednesday, June 3.
- American Legion Boys State of South Dakota was held on the cam-

pus of Northern State University in Aberdeen, June 1-6, 2009.

## HATS IN THE RING

Piedmont Post 311 has endorsed Rod Martens for the office of State Commander of the American Legion.

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

The 91<sup>st</sup> Annual Department Convention is about two weeks 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.

## RETIREMENT PARTY CANCELLED

The retirement party scheduled for July 18, at the Pierre American Legion Post, for Ron Boyd, The American Legion of South Dakota Department Adjutant, has been cancelled.

## 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 Wa-

CONTINUED ON BACK

tertown or from The American Legion National Website at [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org).

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

#### **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.

#### **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 27, 2009. Tickets will be available at the registration desk.

To enter the South Dakota American Legion Press Association Annual Newspaper Contest your Post's package must be mailed into State Headquarters two weeks prior to the State Convention or may be turned in at the SDALPA luncheon. The package should consist of your present years newsletters. A minimum of 4 issues must be included. Newsletter publisher of Post must be a member of SDALPA. No packages will be accepted after the luncheon. The contest runs from the first day after the Annual Summer State Convention to the end of the Annual SDALPA luncheon.

#### **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.

85 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, and 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.

#### **ANNUAL AMERICANISM AWARDS ANNOUNCED**

The SD American Legion Americanism Commission announced the following awards after judging the 2008-2009 Post Americanism Reports at its June 4<sup>th</sup> meeting during the 67<sup>th</sup> annual session of American Legion Boys State of South Dakota in Aberdeen.

National Americanism Awards were as follows:

- Certificate of Distinguished Service, Codington County Post 17, Watertown.
- Certificate of Meritorious Service, Carroll McDonald Post 246, Wall.
- Individual Americanism Citation, Byron Callies, Codington County Post 17, Watertown.
- Post Americanism Awards (these Posts will receive the traveling Americanism Excellence – Golden Eagle Awards for goal-size groups:
  - 15-45 goal-size group – William B. Haufschild, Jr. Post 263, Hetland
  - 46-74 goal-size group – Carroll McDonald Post 246, Wall
  - 75-124 goal-size group – Eddie Robertson Post 76, Veblen
  - 125-350 goal-size group – Peden-Cole Post 109, Gary
  - 351 and larger goal-size group – Codington County Post 17, Watertown

#### **PRIDE OF THE PRAIRIE MEMBERSHIP AWARDS**

The Pride of the Prairie traveling White Buffalo trophies will be awarded to the following Post for having attained the largest increase in membership over last year within their respective goal-size groups:

- 15-74 goal-size group – Herreid Post 170 with 56.0% increase.
- 75-124 goal-size group – Tea Post 266 with 74.747% increase.
- 125-199 goal-size group – Piedmont Post 311 with 7.246% increase.
- 200-299 goal-size group – Gary Post 109 with 7.441% increase.
- 300 and larger goal-size group – Pierre Post 8 with 9.981% increase.

#### **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 Saturday, June 13, 2009.

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**

2009 membership stands at 23,754 or 94.75% of the Department's 2009 membership goal. Keep up the good work and let's all help to reach that 100% goal.