



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. 3005

July 22, 2009

ENCLOSED FOR ADJUTANTS

Enclosed for all Adjutants are a copy of the minutes of the South Dakota American Legion Department Administrative Committee Meeting which was held on Friday, July 10, 2009 at the Governors Inn in Pierre. Also enclosed are the minutes of the South Dakota American Legion Executive Committee Meeting held at the Pierre American Legion Post Home in Pierre on July 18, 2009.

Also enclosed for Post Adjutants are the 2009-2010 Post Adjutant's Administrative and Awards Manuals. Copies are included for the Post Commander and Post Membership Chairman.

COMMANDER MARTENS'S HOMECOMING

Piedmont Valley American Legion Post 311 of Piedmont, SD, will host the Homecoming Celebration for State Commander Rod Martens on August 15th at the Piedmont American Legion Post Home. See enclosed flier for more details.

STATE "B" BASEBALL TOURNAMENT IS UNDERWAY IN PLATTE

Dan Sudbeck of Dimock, Chairman of The State Athletic Commission has announced the first round pairings for The South Dakota American Legion State "B" Baseball Tournament starting today in Platte, SD. The eight team, double-elimination tournament will run, Wednesday, July 22nd through Sunday, July 26.

The first round pairings for the tournament opening day are as follows:

Reg 6B/Groton vs. Reg 5B/Chamberlain – first game at 10:00 a.m.

Reg 2B/Garretson vs. Reg 4B/Alexandria – doubleheader

Reg 1B/Big Stone City vs. Reg 3B/Vermillion – first game at 5:00 p.m.

Reg 7B/Southern Hills vs. Host Platte – doubleheader.

The "B" Championship team advances to The South Dakota American Legion State Championship Baseball Tournament in Rapid City, July 29-August 2, 2009. The 2nd place team from the State "B" Baseball tournament will participate in the National Division II Tournament at Milbank August 6-9, 2009.

The American Legion baseball team which emerges victorious from the State Championship Tournament in Rapid City will represent South Dakota in The American Legion Central Plains Region 6 Tournament in Minnetonka, Minnesota, August 6-10, 2009. The winner of the Central Plains Region 6 Tournament will advance to The American Legion 2009 World Series in Fargo, ND, August 14-18, 2009.

TWO SD LEGIONNAIRE NOMINATED FOR NATIONAL LEGION COLLEGE

Ken Orrock of Rapid City and Byron Callies of Watertown have been nominated by The American Legion Department of South Dakota to attend the 2009 National American Legion College in Indianapolis, October 25 – 30, 2009.

Orrock is a Gulf War Era veteran and served 9 years in the U.S. Army. He currently is the Deputy State's Attorney for Pennington County. He is Post Commander of Rapid City Post 22 and also serves as the District 13 Vice Commander. Orrock was just appointed as the Department of South Dakota Judge Advocate by State Commander Martens.

Callies has spent 41 years in the U. S. Army National Guard. He is a member of Codrington County Post 17 of Watertown and has served as Post Adjutant and Post Americanism Officer. Callies was the District 3 Commander last year and was appointed as the Department Americanism Officer by Commander Martens.

Orrock and Callies's applications/nominations have been forwarded to American Legion National Headquarters and will be reviewed by a panel of Past National Commanders during the 91st Annual National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky. The decisions of the panel will be announced shortly after the adjournment of the National Convention.

Congratulations to Ken and Byron for being selected.

VETTER RECOVERING FROM KNEE SURGERY

PDC Wayne "Red" Vetter is home recovering from knee surgery. Get well wishes can be sent to Wayne at 101 7th St E, Cresbard, SD 57435.

ERROR IN MAILING

The SAL membership cards were mailed along with American Legion membership cards to the Post Adjutants. We are sorry for any inconvenience this may have caused.

COMMANDER MARTENS ANNOUNCES ADDITIONAL APPOINTMENTS

State Commander Rod Martens has announced the following additional appointments:

Byron Callies of Watertown to a one-year term as Department Americanism Officer.

Dale Strom of Aberdeen to a one-year term as Department Historian.

Jeff Hrabanek of Winner to a one-year term as Department Children and Youth Chairman.

Wolfgang Migge of Watertown to a one-year term as the Department Children and Youth Vice Chairman for Special Olympics.

Gene Tornow of Sioux Falls to a four year term as a member of the Department Constitution and Bylaws Committee and a one-year term as the Chairman of that Committee.

Rich McBrayer of Ethan to a one-year term as the Chairman of the Department Educational Loan Committee.

Gerald Goetzinger of Martin to a one-year term as Chairman of the Department Legislative Committee.

Russ Edwards of Lead to a three-year term as a member of the Department Americanism Commission (representing Districts 10,11, 12).

Don Smith of Clear Lake to a one-year term as Chairman of the Department VAVS Committee.

John Antar of Box Elder to fill the remaining term of Phil Anderson who stepped down from the National Cemetery Committee. (term expiring in 2011).

Ron Millage of Philip to a five-year term as a member of the National Cemetery Committee.

Duane Riedlinger of Piedmont to a two-year term as a member of the Department Employment Committee.

Kathy Quinn of Howard to a two-year term as a member of the Department Employment Committee.

Todd Meints of Sturgis to a two-year term as a member of the Department Employment Committee.

Terry Towns of Sioux Falls to a one-year term as an American Legion Department of South Dakota Representative to the South Dakota State Veterans Council.

Phil Anderson of Piedmont to a five-year term as a member of the Department Legislative Committee.

Dan Sudbeck of Dimock to a one-year term as Chairman of the Department Athletic Commission.

CONTINUED ON BACK

Gene Gillen of Hermosa to a five-year term as a member of the Department Athletic Commission representing Districts 8, 9, and 13.

Tom Tyrrell of Garretson to a one-year term as the Boys State Director.

Hugh Holmes of Mitchell to a three-year term as a member of the Department Educational Loan Committee.

Clifford Hemsher of Piedmont to a one-year term as the Department National Security Chairman.

Jerry Lolley of Sturgis to a five-year term as a member of the Department Rehabilitation Committee.

Greg Lemieux of Pierre to a one-year term as the Department Liaison Officer for the SAL.

NATIONAL CONVENTION RAPIDLY APPROACHING

In about a month, Legionnaires and members of The American Legion Family from South Dakota will be making their way to Louisville, Kentucky for the 91st Annual National Convention of The American Legion. The South Dakota delegation to the convention will be housed at the Hyatt Regency Louisville Hotel.

Members of the delegation are expected to arrive in the convention city starting on August 20 with the majority of the delegation arriving on August 21 and 22. The standing committees and commissions of The American Legion will hold their convention meetings on Saturday, August 23. Those members of the delegation who have received assignments as Convention Committee members for South Dakota will attend meetings on Sunday, August 24.

The South Dakota Delegation Caucus will be held at the Hyatt Regency Louisville on Monday morning, August 24. Those SD Legionnaires who served as representatives on the Convention Committees on Sunday will provide reports to the caucus. The leading candidate for National Commander, Clarence Hill of Florida, and Jimmy Foster of Alaska, a candidate for National Commander in 2010-2011 are both scheduled to visit the caucus to talk to the delegation.

The general business session of the convention will convene at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, August 25. Many members of the delegation have purchased tickets to the National Commander's Banquet which will be held in the Convention Center on Tuesday evening, August 25. The general business session will continue on Wednesday, and the convention will close on Thursday shortly after the election of the new National Commander of The American Legion.

The following Legionnaires will serve as Delegates to the 91st Annual National Convention of The American Legion that will be held in Louisville, Kentucky, August 21-27, 2009: Bill Dolan of Beresford, Betty "Sam" Vaughn of Brookings, Charemon Dunham of Iroquois, Roland Pester of Watertown, Hilmer Moen of Watertown, Tim Jurgens of Milbank, Gunner Baatrup of Huron, Vern Sip of Wagner, D.R. "Don" Mason of Platte, Gerald Goetzinger of Martin, Phil Anderson of Piedmont, Gene Schumacher of Aberdeen, Warren Aas of Watertown, Hans Nelson of Veblen, Richard McBrayer of Ethan, Wayne "Red" Vetter of Cresbard, Rick MacDonald of Hermosa, Ron Kazmierczak of Hill City, Royce Loesch of Pierre, Larry Madsen of Gettsburg, Ron Tolrud of White, Tom Tyrrell of Garretson, Kenneth Spears of Tuthill, Ken Mowrer of Rapid City, Gary Warne of Aberdeen, Tom Perrizo of Aberdeen. Department Commander Rod Martens of Black Hawk, Immediate Past Department Commander Jim Huls of Salem, NEC Paul Evenson of Sioux Falls and Department Adjutant Denny Brenden of Watertown are all automatic delegates.

MARSHALL COUNTY SHOOTERS NATIONAL CHAMPS

The Marshall County Sharp Shooters from Britton, S.D., won The American Legion Shooting Sports competition at Bowling Green, Kentucky, July 3-5, 2009.

A total of 42 teams of the nation's best BB gun marksmen gathered to compete for the title in competition held Friday through Sunday. Shooters competed in four positions with a total of 10 shots fired in each position. In addition, participants took a safety test which determines one-fifth of their score.

Team members Natasha Albro, Hailey Block, Austin Effling, David Flanery, Raymond Freeman, Mackenzie Maxwell, and Eric Gaikowski

scored 2372 points out of a possible 2500 to nip Penns Valley from Spring Mills, Pa, with 2370 and Washington, MO, with 2366 for the Daisy Internation BB Gun Championship. Team coaches are Mike Kraft and Harlan Hilleson.

There were over 250 shooters and approximately 1,000 people there. The coaches remarked that the South Dakota support was unbelievable.

DISTRICT AMERICANISM CONFERENCE

State Americanism Officer Byron Callies has issued an Official Call for the Department Americanism Commission and all District Americanism Chairmen to meet for the Annual District Americanism Conference on Saturday, August 8th in Ft. Pierre. The meeting will convene at 10:30 a.m. in the Holiday Inn Express Conference Room.

The purpose of this annual conference is to provide in-depth information to District Americanism Officers on the many Americanism programs of The American Legion. The conference's success is highly dependent upon the number of District Americanism Chairmen who are able to attend. Those attending are also requested to bring information on the scheduling of the District American Legion High School Oratorical Contest with them. This information is required to enable State Headquarters time to prepare the Department brochure for the contest. The earlier Department Headquarters can produce and distribute these brochures, the more time the individual Posts will have to promote the program in their local high schools.

Area Vice Commanders and District Commanders are also invited to attend the conference, but are not funded. Area Vice Commanders and District Commanders are requested to contact your District Americanism Chairman or a member of the Department Americanism Commission and attempt to coordinate carpooling for this event.

2010 MEMBERSHIP PACKETS MAILED

28 POSTS STILL HAVE NOT CERTIFIED OFFICERS

2010 membership cards and packets were mailed to most of the Posts within the Department on June 21st. This signals the beginning of the 2010 membership drive for the Department.

Unfortunately, Posts within the Department still have not certified their 2010 Post Officers to State Headquarters in Watertown and will not receive their 2010 membership cards until they do so. Without the 2010 Post Officer Certifications, State Headquarters does not know for sure who the membership cards should be mailed to. Many of these Posts are the same ones who did not complete a Post Data Form in April. District and County Commanders should be contacting each of these Posts to get the required paperwork filed with Department Headquarters.

The following Posts did not receive their membership cards in this mailing:

- Dist 1 – Alcester Post 86
- Dist 3 – Bradley Post 108
- Dist 4 – Webster Post 40 (need service dates for Vice Commander)
- Dist 5 – Hitchcock Post 84
- Dist 6 – Emery Post 166, Canistota Post 162 (needs VC & Americanism)
- Dist 7 – Springfield Post 132 (needs an Adj), Lake Andes Post 10
- Dist 8 – Bonesteel Post 36 (needs an Adjutant)
- Dist 9 – Wanblee Post 269, Rosebud Post 125, Midland Post 143, St Francis Post 297, Allen Post 317, Mission Post 287 (needs a Vice Commander and an Americanism Officer) Norris Post 310, and Murdo Post 75
- Dist 10 – Agar Post 271
- Dist 11 – Bullhead Post 82, Eagle Butte Post 191, Little Eagle Post 239, Faith Post 106
- Dist 12 – Complete.
- Dist 13 – Porcupine Post 294, Manderson Post 302, Batesland Post 281, Oglala Post 321
- Dist 14 – Leola Post 78, Java Post 275

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

2010 membership stands at 2,452 or 10% of the Department goal.