



# Up To Now!

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## ENCLOSED FOR ALL POSTS

Enclosed for all Posts are the Golf fliers on the 2009 State Golf Tournament and the new increased PUFL rates that are going into effect October 1, 2009. With the new PUFL rates, Legionnaires are encouraged to pay your PUFL dues prior to September 1. Payment plans are being offered.

## NINE RETURN FROM INDIANAPOLIS

Department Commander Rod Martens of Piedmont, Department Adjutant Denny Brenden of Watertown, Department Membership Chairman Wayne Rohde of Brandon, Department Service Officer Warren Aas of Watertown, PDC Gerry Goetzinger of Martin, District 1 Commander Rich Ekle of Canton, District 9 Commander Phil Pearson of Philip, District 10 Commander Greg Hall of Pierre, and District 13 Commander Hank Holwegner of Hermosa returned to South Dakota on August 2 following meetings at The American Legion National Headquarters in Indianapolis, IN.

Those listed above, with the exception of DSO Aas, were in Indianapolis to attend the 46<sup>th</sup> Annual National Membership Workshop. DSO Aas was in Indianapolis at the same time to attend the Annual National American Legion Department Service Officer School.

PDC Goetzinger, who serves as Vice Chairman of the National Membership and Post Activities Committee (M&PA), assisted M&PA Chairman Dale Barnett of Georgia and several members of the National Headquarters staff with the 46<sup>th</sup> Annual National Membership Workshop.

This marks the fourth year that the Department has offered the opportunity for those newly-elected District Commanders, who are in their first year of their two-year terms as District Commander, to attend this valuable workshop. Of the seven who were eligible to attend this year, only four were able to make the trip.

The attendees at the Membership Workshop heard from National Commander Dave Rehbein and the National Adjutant Dan Wheeler. National American Legion Auxiliary Vice President Rita Navarette was introduced and addressed the attendees. The leading candidate for National Commander of The American Legion for 2009-2010, Clarence Hill of Florida, spoke and outlined his "T.H.E.Job" program (The Hardest Easiest Job – Membership) for next year. Jimmy Foster of Alaska, a candidate for National Commander of The American Legion in 2010-2011, also addressed the workshop.

## COMMANDER MARTENS MAKES APPOINTMENTS

Commander Martens has announced additional appointments. They are as follows:

Burdette Solum of Watertown to a three year term on the Trust Committee. Also one year term as chairman of the Trust Committee.

Bob Kusser of Pierre to a one year term as liaison to The Legion Riders.

Gene Tornow of Sioux Falls to a one year term as Chairman of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee.

Kevin Holman of Rapid City to a one year term as Aeronautics Chairman.

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

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

Gary Warne of Aberdeen to a one year term as Chairman of the Employment Committee.

Ron Millage of Philip to a one year term as Chairman of the Na-

tional Cemetery Committee.

## COMMANDER MARTENS' HOMECOMING

Piedmont Valley American Legion Post #311 of Piedmont will host the Homecoming Celebration for State Commander Rod Martens on Friday and Saturday August 14 and 15, 2009 at the Post Home located at 101 Pine Street in Piedmont.

The schedule of events for the Homecoming is as follows:

Friday – Social at 7:00 p.m. with hors d'oeuvres and live entertainment. There will be a Flag Disposal Ceremony at 9:00 p.m.

Saturday – Breakfast at 9:00 to 11:00 a.m., parade at noon, program starts at 1:00 p.m. (at the Piedmont Gym), Meal from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. with a social and live entertainment.

Local accommodations in the Piedmont area are as follows:

Ramada Inn at exit 48 – 605-787-4844; Elk Creek Campground & Resort – 605-787-4884; Covered Wagon Resort, 14189 Sturgis Road – 605-787-4440. (Be sure to tell them you are with The American Legion).

All members of The American Legion Family are invited and encouraged to attend State Commander Rod Martens' Homecoming Celebration in Piedmont.

## RAPID CITY POST 22 CAPTURES STATE BASEBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Rapid City American Legion Post 22's Baseball Team defeated Rapid City Post 320, 6 – 2, in the final game of the 2009 South Dakota American Legion Championship Baseball Tournament in Rapid City on Sunday August 2.

Scores of individual games were as follows:

**Wednesday, July 29:**

**Watertown 9** – Spearfish 3; **Mitchell 16** – Vermillion 2;

**Rapid City (Post 320) 13** - Brookings 10; Sioux Falls West 1 –

**Rapid City (Post 22) 7.**

**Thursday, July 30:**

Spearfish 0 – **Brookings 7**; Vermillion 2 – **Sioux Falls West**

**18**; Watertown 8 – **Rapid City (Post 320) 13**; Mitchell 2 –

**Rapid City (Post 22) 14.**

**Friday, July 31:**

Sioux Falls West 13 – **Watertown 20**; Brookings 7 –

**Mitchell 11**; **Rapid City (Post 320) 10** – Rapid City (Post 22) 9.

**Saturday, August 1:**

**Rapid City (Post 22) 9** – Watertown 3; **Mitchell 32** – Rapid

City (Post 320) 5.

**Sunday August 2:**

**Rapid City (Post 22) 12** – Mitchell 2; **Rapid City (Post 22)**

**6** – Rapid City (Post 320) 2.

The Porter T. Talcott Sportsmanship Award was awarded to Mitchell Post 18.

Zach Cimburek of Rapid City 320 earned the Big Stick Award with 11 hits for 19 times at bat and a batting average of .579.

Kolton Emery of Rapid City 22 was awarded the Tournament Player of the Year Award.

Rapid City Post 22 has now advanced to the Central Plains

CONTINUED ON BACK

Regional Tournament in Minnetonka, MN, August 6-10.

### STATE "B" BASEBALL CHAMPIONS

The American Legion Baseball Team sponsored by Vermillion Post 1 captured The State "B" American Legion Baseball Champion title Sunday, July 26<sup>th</sup> in The American Legion Baseball tournament started on July 22<sup>nd</sup>. Vermillion, who was undefeated in the "B" Tournament, advanced to compete in The South Dakota American Legion State Championship Baseball Tournament which was held in Rapid City July 29-August 2. Runner-up Groton Post 39 will participate in the National Division II Tournament at Milbank August 6-9.

Scores for the individual games in the Class "B" Tournament were as follows:

- Wed. July 22: Groton 18 – Chamberlain 17; Alexandria 10 – Garretson 0; Vermillion 14 – Big Stone City 10; Platte-Geddes 13 – Southern Hills 1.
- Thu. July 23: Chamberlain 12 – Big Stone City 11; Southern Hills 16 – Garretson 5; Vermillion 12 – Groton 2; Platte-Geddes 11 – Alexandria 10.
- Fri. July 24: Groton 13 – Southern Hills 3; Chamberlain 11 – Alexandria 3; Vermillion 16 – Platte-Geddes 6.
- Sat. July 25: Groton 12 – Platte-Geddes 10; Vermillion 8 – Chamberlain 3.
- Sun. July 26: Vermillion 9 – Groton 3.

Vermillion Post 1 was awarded the Porter T. Talcott Sportsmanship Award.

Keith Cutler of Platte-Geddes was the recipient of the Big Stick Award batting 9 for 15 for an average of .600.

Tyler Johnson of Vermillion was selected as The South Dakota American Legion "B" Baseball Tournament Player of the Year.

### VETERANS FORUM SCHEDULE FOR 2009-2010

State Commander Rod Martens has announced that he will continue The American Legion Department of South Dakota's Veterans Benefits Outreach Forums for 2009-2010.

The Veterans Forum schedule is currently being prepared and should have be finalized on August 1, 2009 which is the deadline for all 14 District Commanders to report back to State Headquarters where they will hold their veterans forum in their District. We need the location of the Veterans Forums so guest speakers can be notified.

Again this year, all veterans' forums will have a start time of 6:30 p.m. in their respective time zone. Department Service Officer Warren Aas will conduct the veterans' forums with the assistance of several invited guest speakers. This will be the fifth year DSO Aas has been on the road conducting the veterans' forums and as of this date, The American Legion Department of South Dakota has conducted 77 veterans' forums and well over 3,100 veterans and their family members have attended to learn more about their VA benefits.

To date, we have ten Districts that have finalized their 2009-2010 veterans' forum. They are as follows:

District 1: Wednesday, October 28, VFW Post, Brandon, SD.

District 2: Thursday, October 29, American Legion Post Home, Arlington, SD.

District 3: Thursday, November 5, To Be Announced.

District 4: Wednesday, November 4, Community Center, Agency Village, SD.

District 5: Wednesday, October 21, To Be Announced.

District 6: Monday, September 28, To Be Announced.

District 7: Wednesday, September 30, American Legion Post, Menno, SD.

District 8: Tuesday, September 29, American Legion Post, Herrick, SD.

District 9: Monday, September 14, American Legion Post Home, Philip, SD.

District 10: Tuesday, October 20, American Legion Post Home, Onida, SD.

District 11: Thursday, September 17, American Legion Post Home, Lemmon, SD.

District 12: Wednesday, September 16, American Legion Post

Home, Piedmont, SD.

District 13: Tuesday, September 15, Community Center, Wall, SD.

District 14: Monday, October 19, To Be Announced.

All Legionnaires, their spouses and other veterans should be encouraged to attend The American Legion Department of South Dakota Veterans Benefits Outreach Forum closest to their home. This is an educational and valuable opportunity to possibly learn about benefits you are eligible for that you were previously unaware of. The forums are free and open to everyone.

Refreshments will be served during and after the forums and informational handout materials will be available for the attendees to take home and keep for future reference.

### FALL DISTRICT CONFERENCES TO BEGIN

Fall District Conferences have been or are being scheduled by the District Commanders in accordance with the schedule outlined below. Six District Commanders have submitted their dates, locations, and other information, we urge the Districts to submit the location, times, and meeting places as soon as possible.

Dist 1 – Thursday, October 1, Centerville American Legion Post Home, No social, 7:00 Meeting, Light lunch following the meeting. Auxiliary will meet at the Senior Citizens Building (1/2 block away).

Dist 2 – Saturday, October 3, To be announced.

Dist 3 – Friday, October 2, To be announced.

Dist 4 – Friday, September 18, Britton High School, No Social (VFW is 2 blocks away), Dinner 6:00 p.m., Meeting 7:00 p.m. American Legion will meet in the Choir Room and Auxiliary will meet in the Gym.

Dist 5 – Sunday, September 27, To be announced.

Dist 6 – Sunday, September 20, Mitchell American Legion Post Home (they are moving so it could be 2 doors south of current location), Social at 5:00 p.m., Dinner at 6:00 p.m., meeting will commence at 7:00 p.m. All activities and meetings will be at the Post Home.

Dist 7 – Saturday, September 26, To be announced.

Dist 8 – Friday, September 25, Dallas American Legion Post Home, Social 6:30 p.m., Meeting 7:00 p.m., Light lunch with refreshments following the meeting. Legion and Auxiliary will meet at the Post Home.

Dist 9 – Thursday, September 24, Draper City Auditorium, Social 6:30 p.m., Meeting at 7:30 p.m., Light lunch following the meeting, Legion and Auxiliary will meet at the City Auditorium.

Dist 10 – Sunday, September 13, To be announced.

Dist 11 – Saturday, September 12, To be announced.

Dist 12 – Friday, September 11, Box Elder American Legion Post Home, Social 4:00 p.m., Meeting 5:00 p.m., Dinner 7:00 p.m.

Dist 13 – Thursday, September 10, To be announced.

Dist 14 – Saturday, September 19, To be announced.

### DISTRICT AMERICANISM CONFERENCE

The Department Americanism Commission and all District Americanism Chairmen will meet for the Annual District Americanism Conference on Saturday, August 8<sup>th</sup> in Ft. Pierre. The meeting will convene at 10:30 a.m. (Central Time) at 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.

### MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

2010 membership stands at 4,912 or 20.04% percent of the Department's 2010 membership goal.