



Up To Now!

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FALL DISTRICT MEETINGS CONTINUE

The 2009 Fall District Conferences commenced the weekend of September 10-13 when Legionnaires from Districts 10, 11, 12, and 13 gathered for their annual meetings.

The members of the Headquarters traveling team have been presenting updated information on numerous programs of The American Legion. The remaining schedule for the upcoming Districts is as follows:

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 14 – Saturday, September 19, Leola American Legion Post Home, social 7:00 p.m., meeting 8:00 p.m., coffee and cookies to follow. Auxiliary will meet at the Municipal Building.

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 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 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 7 – Saturday, September 26, Gayville School Gym, social 12:30 p.m., meeting 1:30 p.m., light lunch following the meeting. (Note the location change). Auxiliary will meet at the Gayville Lutheran Church at 1:30 p.m.

Dist 5 – Sunday, September 27, Wessington American Legion Post Home, social 6:00 p.m., meeting 7:00 p.m. Auxiliary will meet in a Church.

Dist 1 – Thursday, October 1, Centerville American Legion Post Home, 6:00 p.m. social, 7:00 p.m. meeting, light lunch following the meeting. Auxiliary will meet at the Senior Citizens Building (1/2 block away).

Dist 3 – Friday, October 2, Estelline American Legion Post Home, social 7:00 p.m., meeting 7:30 p.m., coffee and bars following the meeting. Auxiliary will meet at Estelline Community Center.

Dist 2 – Saturday, October 3, Lake Preston American Legion Post Home, social 1:00 p.m., meeting 2:00 p.m., Auxiliary will meet at the UCC Church (across the road from the Post Home).

HATS IN THE RING

Pierre Post 8 has endorsed State Vice Commander Nancy Lemieux for the office of Department Commander.

DISTRICT 10 & 12 HAVE NEW VICE COMMANDER'S

Legionnaires of District 12 elected a new Vice Commander for the District at their Fall District 12 Conference in Box Elder on Friday, September 11. Russ Edwards resigned from the office of District Vice Commander during the Fall Conference. The Legionnaires present at the meeting elected Ken Mowrer of Piedmont to serve the remainder of the uncompleted two-year term.

Legionnaires of District 10 elected a new Vice Commander for the District at their Fall District 10 Conference in Pierre on Sunday, September 13. Past District Commander Nancy Lemieux was elected State

Vice Commander at the Department Convention in June, moving District Vice Commander Greg Hall into the District Commander position. The Legionnaires present at the meeting elected Larry Nagel of Gettysburg to serve the remainder of the uncompleted two-year term.

Vice Commander Mowrer and Vice Commander Nagel took office immediately and will serve through their respective District Spring Conventions of 2010 at which time elections will again be held to elect a District Commander and Vice Commander for new two-year terms.

Also elected at the District 12 Conference was Doug Henwood of Spearfish as Lawrence County Commander.

NATIONAL COMMANDER MEMBERSHIP INCENTIVES

During the 2009-2010 membership year, National Commander Clarence Hill will award his National Commander pin to any Legion family member who signs up at least five new members into The American Legion.

A "New Member" is defined as any eligible person joining for the 2010 membership year who was not a member of The American Legion during the 2009 membership year.

National Commander Hill's goal is to recognize those in the Legion family who actively recruit new members into the world's largest veterans' service organization for the 2010 membership year. To maintain the integrity of the National Commander's Pin only one will be awarded per individual.

The certification form for this program may be submitted at any time after August 27, 2009. Upon receipt, national membership staff will confirm the names and mail the pin directly to the Legionnaire. National Commander Clarence Hill's "T.H.E. Job Challenge" pin incentive will end on June 30, 2010 - or when supplies are exhausted.

National Commander Clarence Hill has also announced a Post Excellence Award program to honor American Legion Posts that achieve a high standard of participation in each of four key areas: membership, youth activities, community service and support to our U.S. Military or veterans.

Membership must be at least one member greater than last year.

Youth Activities – The Post must sponsor and actively participate in at least one of the primary youth programs: American Legion Boys State, American Legion Baseball, Oratorical, Boy Scouts, or Junior Shooting Sports.

Community Service – The Post must carry out a community service project that involves members of The American Legion Family actively working in the community outside the Post Home. Monetary donations are allowed, but may not constitute the entire project.

Service to U.S. Troops or Veterans – The Post must carry out a project supporting troops or veterans in the community, with Legion Family members outside the Post Home. Monetary donations are allowed, but may not constitute the entire project.

District Commanders will be responsible for certifying the achievement of the four specified criteria. They will be responsible for submitting a list of Posts meeting the criteria each month to Department Headquarters. The list must include the Post name, number, address and Post Commander's name.

Framed certificates will be awarded to those Posts that achieve these criteria. The framed certificates will be mailed to the District Commander for presentation to the Post.

The District Commander, in which 50% or more of the Posts achieve certification, will receive a framed certificate denoting that achievement.

CONTINUED ON BACK

SEVEN ARE CALLED TO INDIANAPOLIS

Seven South Dakota Legionnaires have been called to The American Legion National Headquarters in Indianapolis to participate in the Annual Fall Meetings of the organization. State Commander Rod Martens of Black Hawk (member of the Piedmont American Legion Post) and State Adjutant Denny Brenden of Watertown will be attending the Annual Commanders and Adjutants Conference October 12-14. Adjutant Brenden will attend an Adjutant's Administrative Seminar on October 9 & 10 at National Headquarters.

NEC Paul Evenson of Sioux Falls (member of The American Legion Post at Garretson) will be attending the Fall meeting of the National Executive Committee. Evenson also serves concurrently as Vice Chairman of the National Subcommittee on Committees and as a member of the Child Welfare Foundation, both of which will also hold meetings during the October 12-14th timeframe.

Other members called to Indianapolis include Larry Price of Redfield who serves as Vice Chairman of the National Americanism Commission; Gunner Baatrup of Huron (member of the Virgil American Legion Post) who serves on the National Convention Committee, Ron Tolrud of White who serves on the National Children and Youth Commission; and Eugene Schumacher who serves as a National Vice Commander.

NEW PUFL MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM TO BEGIN

The Paid-Up-For-Life (PUFL) program is changing effective October 1, 2009 as a result of National Executive Committee Resolution #8 passed during the Spring Meetings, May 6-7, 2009.

Under the new Paid-Up-For-Life program Legionnaires will be allowed to make 36 equal monthly payments. Identification will be required showing the birth date of the applicant and must be certified by the Adjutant. Although the cost is greater, the convenience of monthly payments makes it appealing.

All PUFL applications being submitted under the current program and at the current rates must be received at National by September 30, 2009.

EDUCATIONAL LOAN DEADLINE APPROACHING

Application deadlines are November 1st and May 1st of each year. Loans received after the application deadline will be held until the next meeting of the Educational Loan Committee. The Educational Loan Committee meets twice a year to review and approve applications for student loans.

The American Legion Department of South Dakota Educational Loan Program is made possible by voluntary donations of Legion Posts, individuals and corporations. The fund was authorized by the Department Executive Committee of The American Legion in South Dakota meeting in Yankton, June 16, 1956. It is to be used for loans to eligible veterans, their children, and grandchildren for educational opportunities beyond high school. It is to be used to enable eligible recipients to continue their education in college or technical schools in South Dakota.

Loans of up to \$1,500 per person, per academic year, will be granted on a basis of need, as long as funds are available. The granting of these loans will be determined by the Department Educational Loan Committee, based on need and prospective best use of training sought. It is further stipulated that no one person may borrow in excess of \$3,000 total from the Educational Loan Fund. Loans must be used at educational institutions within the state of South Dakota unless the program that is being pursued is unavailable in South Dakota.

Loan applications can be obtained from your local American Legion Post, contacting State Headquarters in Watertown, or going to the SD Legion Website (www.sdlegion.org).

TWO SELECTED TO ATTEND NATIONAL LEGION COLLEGE

Confirmation has been received from National Headquarters in Indianapolis, Indiana that Ken Orrock of Rapid City and Byron Callies of Watertown have been selected to attend the National American Legion College in Indianapolis, October 25-30, 2009.

Both Candidates were nominated by the Department of South Dakota and final selections were made by a panel of National Vice Commanders.

VETERANS FORUMS FOR 2009-2010 UNDER WAY

Department Service Officer Warren Aas began conducting veterans' forums Monday, September 14 in Philip. The start time for all the forums is 6:30 p.m. 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.

The remaining schedule for the veterans' forums is 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, American Legion Post Home, Clark, SD.

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

District 5: Wednesday, October 21, American Legion Post Home, Faulkton, SD.

District 6: Monday, September 28, American Legion Post Home, Ethan, SD.

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

District 8: Tuesday, September 29, American Legion Post, Herick, 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 14: Monday, October 19, American Legion Post Home, Mobridge, SD.

All Legionnaires, their spouses and other veterans are 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 learn about benefits you may be eligible for that you were previously unaware of.

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.

SEPTEMBER 16 "THE AMERICAN LEGION DAY"

Resolution 260 was passed in the U. S. Senate making September 16 "The American Legion Day". The resolution so states The American Legion was chartered as a wartime veteran's service organization on September 16, 1919. Also that The American Legion provides millions of hours of volunteer service along with millions of dollars in college scholarships to young men and women. The American Legion is active in all aspects of the communities in local, State, and National levels. The resolution recognizes the The American Legion for writing the original draft of the "G.I. Bill of Rights".

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

The 2010 membership year is off and running. Department Commander Martens reminds us that "membership is everyone's business". Membership is a team effort. If you have not organized your Post, County, District, or Area Membership Team you should do so now.

2010 membership stands at 14,621 or 59.65% of goal. The Department of South Dakota exceeded the National Goal of 50% by September 9th. Commander Martens would like to thank you for your hard work on membership and encourages you to keep up the good work in recruiting members into The American Legion.

Department Membership Chairman Wayne Rohde says this is the year The Department of South Dakota will make goal.