



# Up To Now!

Dennis Brenden – Department Adjutant  
www.sdlegion.org – Email: sdlegion@dailypost.com



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## COMMANDER WEINMANN ANNOUNCES MIDWINTER CONFERENCE

Department Commander Mark Weinmann has announced the 2012 MidWinter Conference will be held at Cedar Shore Resort in Oacoma, Friday-Sunday, February 10-12, 2012.

Commander Weinmann has announced the format for the Mid-Winter Conference will feature individual breakout sessions consisting of Americanism, Membership, Legion Riders, Post Adjutants, Post Service Officers and Post Commanders.

Friday will begin with the Department Administrative Committee meeting at 10:00 a.m. and the Department Executive Committee meeting at 1:00 p.m. Friday evening, February 10, will feature the traditional Joint Legion/Auxiliary/SAL Banquet at 7:00 p.m. preceded by a one-hour no-host cocktail period. The Banquet ticket coupon can be found in the October issue of The South Dakota Legion News. This coupon can be used to order your banquet ticket(s). Again, this year as in the past, there will be no banquet tickets sold at the door the evening of the banquet. You must purchase your ticket in advance.

This year the keynote speaker at the Joint Banquet will be National Vice Commander David Voyles of the Department of MO.

On Saturday, February 11, the conference will start with the Joint Session of The American Legion, Auxiliary and Sons of The American Legion from 8:30-10:30 a.m. Commencing at 10:30 a.m., The American Legion, Auxiliary, and Sons of The American Legion will convene into their own sessions. The American Legion will have separate rooms for the programs being hosted.

The Go-Getter Reception and Smorgasbord will be held at the Oacoma Community Center on Saturday evening commencing at 6:30 p.m. The Go-Getter's cards will be available for pick-up at the State Headquarters Registration Desk in the lobby of the Cedar Shore Resort event center starting at 12:00 noon on Friday.

On Sunday, February 12, there will be a Joint Non-Denominational Religious Service at 8:30 a.m. in the Cedar Shore Resort Convention Center. Department Chaplain Byron Callies will be in charge of the arrangements for the service.

Following the closing of the Annual MidWinter Conference, the Department Finals for The South Dakota American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program "A Constitutional Speech Contest" will be held at the Cedar Shore Resort.

## MIDWINTER BANQUET TICKETS

Tickets for the MidWinter Conference Joint Banquet will be by advance sale only. No tickets will be available at the event. The Joint Banquet will be held Friday, February 10, 2012, at 7:00 p.m. The event will be preceded by a no-host cocktail hour commencing at 6:00 p.m. The menu will consist of steak & shrimp (6 oz. sirloin and 3 shrimp), twice baked potatoes, corn o'brien and cheesecakes.

Tickets are \$30.00 each and can be obtained by sending \$30.00 per ticket requested to, Potter American Legion Post 3, PO Box 348, Chamberlain, SD 57325.

## HOTELS/MOTELS IN OACOMA

The Headquarters Hotel for the South Dakota American Legion MidWinter Conference will be the Cedar Shore Resort, located on Shoreline Drive in Oacoma. The phone number for the Cedar Shore Resort is 605-734-6376.

Additional lodging facilities in the Chamberlain/Oacoma area are:

West River Inn & Suites – W Hwy 16, I 90 Exit 260, Oacoma 605-734-4222

Days Inn – I 90 Exit 260, Oacoma 605-734-4100

Super 8 Motel - I 90 Exit 263, Chamberlain 605-734-6548

Oasis Inn – W Hwy 16, I90 Exit 260, Oacoma 605-734-6061

Holiday Inn Express - I 90 Exit 260, Oacoma 605 -734-5593

AmericInn - I 90 Exit 265, Chamberlain 605-734-0985

## DSO AAS RECOVERING FROM FALL

DSO Warren Aas is making a slow but gradual recovery from his unfortunate fall he took on September 21, 2011, at his home. DSO Aas sustained multiple rib fractures and is currently taking medication to control the pain. Warren has recently returned to work on a limited basis and is in his office until noon during most workdays.

DSO Aas says he would like to thank everyone for the cards, phone calls, visits, and get well wishes during his recovery. Warren also says, "I would like to personally thank the staff at State Headquarters for their patience and understanding while I recover from my injuries. I thank Adjutant Denny, Judy, and Karen for their ongoing support and understanding while I continue to heal and feel better."

## COMMANDER WEINMANN MAKES APPOINTMENT

Commander Mark Weinmann has appointed Paul Karst of Peever to a five year term on the Athletic Commission.

## DISTRICT ORATORY DATES & SITES

The dates and sites for the District Oratorical Contests are as follows:

**DIST. 1** - Chairman Russ Edwards, 20616 Maitland Rd., Lead, SD 57754. District Contest will be held at Piedmont Valley Post 311, 122 Main St., Piedmont, Jan. 15, 2012, 1:00 p.m. Storm date, Jan. 22, same time and place.

**DIST. 2** - Chairman Mike Pelly, 1403 West Boulevard, Rapid City, SD 57701. No information.

**DIST. 3** - Chairman Larry Madsen, 906 E. Commercial Ave., Gettysburg, SD 57442. District Contest will be held at Pierre American Legion Cabin, 520 S. Pierre St., Pierre, Jan. 8, 2012, 2:00 p.m. Storm date, Jan. 15, same time and place.

**DIST. 4** - Chairman Dave Yost, 602 3rd St., Leola, SD 57456. District Contest will be held at the Aberdeen Post Home, 316 S. 2nd St., Aberdeen, Jan. 7, 2012, 1:00 p.m. Storm date, Jan. 14, same time and place.

**DIST. 5** - Chairman Byron Callies, 1332 20th St. NE, Watertown, SD, 57201. District Contest will be held at Cornerstone Methodist Church, 1350 11th St. NE, Watertown, Jan. 8, 2012, 2:00 p.m. Storm date, Jan. 15, same time and place.

**DIST. 6** - Chairman Bob Brodtkorb, PO Box 395, Wolsey, SD 57384. District Contest will be held at Arlington Post Home, 108 Main St, Arlington, Jan. 7, 2012, 2:00 p.m. Storm date, Jan. 14, same time and place.

**DIST. 7** - No information.

**DIST. 8** - Chairman William Dolan, 514 N. 1st St., Beresford,

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SD 57004. No information.

### **DEPARTMENT VAVS COMMITTEE TO MEET**

The Department Veterans Affairs Volunteer Services (VAVS) Committee will hold its annual meeting Tuesday, November 9<sup>th</sup> at the Pierre American Legion Post 8 Home in Pierre. The planning meeting is scheduled to start at 1:00 p.m.

The VAVS Committee is chaired by Ollie Redden of Pierre and members are Don Smith of Clear Lake, Darwin Wahlert of Sioux Falls, Darrel Yost of Leola, Kerwin "Pee Wee" Douthit of Hot Springs, Jerold Zerfoss of Wessington, and Ken Van Kekerix of Witten.

The committee will plan for the 2011 Christmas season at the VA facilities and the SD State Veterans Home. Traditionally, the committee makes recommendations for annual donations from the Department to the facilities to help offset the expenses of their Christmas parties and accepts recommendations from the Department Commander for gifts from the Department to each facility.

The committee strongly recommends that American Legion Posts begin planning now for the Post's contributions and/or donations to the facilities during the Christmas season.

### **DEADLINE APPROACHING FOR ED LOANS**

Application deadlines are November 1<sup>st</sup> and May 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

The American Legion Department of South Dakota Educational Loan Program is made possible by voluntary donations of Legion Posts, individuals and corporations. It is to be used for loans to eligible veterans, their children, and grandchildren for educational opportunities beyond high school. These loans enable eligible recipients to continue their education in college or technical schools in South Dakota.

### **BOYS STATE PLANNING MEETING TO BE HELD**

The annual planning meeting of the South Dakota American Legion Boys State Corporation members and Board of Directors, will be held at the American Legion Post 8 Home in Pierre, at 10:00 a.m., on Monday, November 14, 2011. This will be the initial planning meeting for the 2012 American Legion Boys State Session.

### **EMPLOYER OF THE VETERANS AWARD DEADLINE**

State Employment Committee Chairman Earl Schultz reminds Posts that the deadline for submitting "The Employer of Veterans Award" is November 1, 2011. A letter went out to all Post Commanders September 28, 2011, along with an application, in the *Up To Now*.

Please submit all applications to Earl Schultz, 38364 130th St, Aberdeen, SD 57401. If additional applications are needed contact Chairman Schultz or State Headquarters.

### **SD AMERICAN LEGION FOUNDATION TO MEET**

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the South Dakota American Legion Foundation is being called for 1:00 p.m., November 6, 2011, at the AmericInn in Chamberlain. The meeting is called to review that status of the foundation and to conduct other business of the foundation.

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

- Ⓟ The teddy bear was created by a Russian immigrant to the USA, after seeing a cartoon depicting Theodore "Teddy" Roosevelt.
- Ⓟ The 2010 homeless count in the State of South Dakota found 1,728 homeless individuals; 459 women, 809 men and 446 children. There are folks that live in storage units, emergency shelters, transitional housing, or live in motels.
- Ⓟ The United States flag should never touch anything beneath it,

such as the ground, floor, water, or merchandise.

- Ⓟ Department Membership Chairman Homer Holmes has been giving demonstrations on how to pull up his socks.

### **VETERANS DAY**

Veterans Day is Friday, November 11. Make sure that your Post and community have plans for this significant day by coordinating a meaningful program and ceremony in your area. The American Legion should not be waiting to be asked to participate in Veterans Day – The American Legion should be leading the way.

The American Legion National Headquarters prepares a suggested speech for Veterans Day each year. The 2011 American Legion Veterans Day Speech is available and can be requested from State Headquarters in Watertown.

### **LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE TO MEET**

The South Dakota American Legion Legislative Committee will hold its annual meeting Monday, November 7, at the Pierre American Legion Post 8 Home in Pierre. The legislative meeting is scheduled to start at 10:30 a.m. The current Legislative Commission is chaired by Gerald Goetzinger of Martin and members are Alt NEC Phil Anderson of Piedmont, Ron Tolrud of White, Bob Miller of Kimball and Curt Halverson of Rapid City (member of the Custer American Legion Post).

All members of the South Dakota American Legion are encouraged to become knowledgeable of the legislative issues The American Legion will pursue, and speak to your local district legislators on these issues. This meeting is open to the membership of The American Legion.

### **EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR**

The forms for nominating local area teachers for The American Legion Department of South Dakota 2012 Educator of the Year Program are now available from State Headquarters in Watertown or online at [www.sdlegion.org](http://www.sdlegion.org).

This program, sponsored in conjunction with the National Education Week (November 13-19), is an excellent opportunity to provide valuable recognition to an educator from your community. Each Post should sponsor a nominee from a local school. That educator is then recognized by your local American Legion Post as your community's American Legion Educator of the Year and the nomination goes on for District and Department competition.

### **NEW VETERANS AFFAIRS SECRETARY ANNOUNCED**

Gov. Dennis Daugaard has named Command Sergeant Major (CSM) Larry Zimmerman of Rapid City as the state's first Secretary of Veterans Affairs. Zimmerman is currently the state command sergeant major in the South Dakota Army National Guard, the Guard's highest-ranking non-commissioned officer. In that role, he is the Adjutant General's personal advisor on all enlisted matters, and acts as a representative and advocate for more than 3,400 soldiers in South Dakota.

CSM Zimmerman's commitment to the Army National Guard ends Feb. 1, 2013, and he will assume his role as Secretary of Veterans Affairs at that time.

Until Zimmerman assumes his position in 2013, Lt. Gov. Matt Michels will serve as interim Secretary of Veterans Affairs. Michels is a veteran of the United States Navy, and is already the Governor's point-person on veterans' issues. The lieutenant governor is a member of the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Retired COL Steve Harding will continue to serve as deputy secretary for the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of the Military.

### **MEMBERSHIP UPDATE**

Membership stands at 14,915 or 65.24% of the Department's Membership Goal.

