



# Up To Now!

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## RUTH HOLAN PASSES

Ruth Holan, wife of Past Department Membership Chairman LaVaun Holan passed away November 24th. Our condolences go out to LaVaun and his family.

Cards and memorials may be sent to LaVaun Holan, 515 E. Stearns, Chamberlain, SD 57325.

## DEADLINE FOR SPORTS BIDS

Posts interested in hosting the 2011 sporting events for The American Legion Department of South Dakota have until Monday, January 19, 2010, to submit their bids and invitations to State Headquarters in Watertown.

Bid forms for the State "B" and State Championship Tournaments can be obtained from State Headquarters in Watertown.

## 2010 EAGLE SCOUT OF THE YEAR

The American Legion annually honors The American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year at its National Convention. The winner of the competition receives a \$10,000 scholarship and the three runners-up are each awarded a \$2,500 scholarship.

Forms for nominating Boys Scouts for The American Legion 2010 Eagle Scout of the Year award are now available from State Headquarters.

State Headquarters must receive nominations no later than March 1, 2010. A panel will then select the Department Eagle Scout of the Year.

Nomination forms may also be downloaded from the internet on The American Legion webpage at [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org).

## DISTRICT & AREA ORATORICAL CONTESTS

District & Area Contests for The American Legion High School Oratorical – "Constitutional Speech Contest" will be held in accordance with the following schedule:

- Dist 1 – Dell Rapids Legion Post, Jan. 16, 2 p.m.
- Dist 2 – Deubrook High School, White, Jan. 10, 2 p.m.
- Dist 3 – Cornerstone Methodist Church, Watertown, Jan. 17, 2 p.m.
- Dist 4 – Sisseton Legion Post, Jan. 17, 2 p.m.
- Dist 5 – Wolsey Elementary School, Jan. 17, 2 p.m.
- Dist 6 – Ethan Public School, Jan. 17, 2 p.m.
- Dist 7 – Tripp Legion Post, Jan. 17, 1:30 p.m.
- Dist 8 – Gregory Legion Post, Jan. 10, 1 p.m.
- Dist 9 – Philip Legion Post, Jan. 10, 1 p.m.
- Dist 10 – Gettysburg Legion Post, Jan. 10, 2 p.m.
- Dist 11 – Lemmon High School, Jan. 17, 2 p.m.
- Dist 12 – Piedmont Legion Post, Jan. 17, 2 p.m.
- Dist 13 – Rapid City Post 22 Legion Post, Jan. 17, 2 p.m.
- Dist 14 – Leola Legion Post, Jan 10, 2 p.m.
- Area 1, 7 – Centerville Legion Post, Jan. 30, 2 p.m.
- Area 2, 5, 6 – Iroquois High School, Jan. 31, 2 p.m.
- Area 3, 4, 14 – American Lutheran Church, Milbank, Jan. 31, 2 p.m.
- Area 8, 9, 13 – Hill City Senior Center, Jan. 30, 11:00 a.m.

Area 10, 11, 12 – Black Hills State Campus, Spearfish, Jan. 30, 1 p.m.

## BOYS STATE CORPORATION MEETS

Boys State Corporation called a special meeting following the Boys State Planning Meeting November 19, 2009, at the Pierre American Legion Post Home. A motion was passed returning the Boys State Registration date back to April 1 and to charge no late fees at this time. Discussion was held on registrations coming in after the date and the turmoil that takes place after all the boys have been assigned cities and housing arrangements. If late registrations continue to occur, other actions may need to be taken.

## VETERANS LEGISLATIVE ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

A Veterans Legislative Roundtable discussion will be held at Codington County American Legion Post 17 in Watertown, S.D., at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, December 18, 2009. American Legion Post 17 is located at 1412 9th Ave. SW, Watertown. This will be the fourth legislative roundtable of this type held – previous roundtables have been held in Sioux Falls, Brookings, and Piedmont.

Representatives from the leadership of The American Legion Department of South Dakota, The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Department of South Dakota, Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Department of South Dakota and the Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA) of South Dakota will be in attendance at this meeting to provide information on the concerns and issues of importance to the veterans of the great state of South Dakota. All Legislators from legislative districts 01, 02, 03, 05, 06, and 23 have been invited to attend and participate in this event.

The veterans of South Dakota are looking forward to this opportunity to visit with the legislators about our concerns and issues. All Legionnaires and members of The American Legion Family are encouraged to attend.

## LAW ENFORCEMENT AND FIREFIGHTER/EMT OF THE YEAR NOMINATIONS

Nominations for The American Legion Department of South Dakota Law Enforcement Officer of the Year and Firefighter/EMT of the Year are due to State Headquarters by January 11, 2010. One nominee from each of the two categories will be selected as the Department Law Enforcement Officer of the Year and Department Firefighter/EMT of the Year. These two individuals will be recognized at the South Dakota American Legion Department Convention in Spearfish in June 2010. The nomination for Law Enforcement Officer of the Year will be forwarded to National Headquarters as the Department nominee for the National American Legion Law Enforcement Officer of the Year.

Recognition at the Department Convention will include; one night's lodging at the convention hotel, free tickets for the individual and his/her spouse/guest to the Joint Banquet and the presentation of a suitable award from The American Legion Department of South Dakota.

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The purpose of these awards is to recognize well-rounded public servants who have exceeded, above and beyond, the call of duty requirements expected of the positions held and who exemplify the virtues of professionalism and dedication and have demonstrated a distinct pattern of public service to the community, state and nation; and also have proven personal dedication to societal security and protection.

Recognition of the individuals nominated for this award should commence at the local Post level. After the individuals are selected at the local level, the Post should sponsor some sort of recognition program and make a presentation to the individual. Certificates are available from Department Headquarters, signed by the Department Commander and Adjutant. Additionally, these certificates require the signatures of the Post Commander and Adjutant prior to presentation. Press releases should also be sent to the local media along with photographs noting that the individual has been nominated for higher levels of competition and recognition.

The Law Enforcement Officer of the Year program continues with national level competition. The Firefighter/EMT of the Year program does not. The individual selected as the National Law Enforcement Officer of the Year will receive a trip to the National Convention, to include hotel and travel expenses. The award also includes the presentation of a suitable award and a letter of commendation signed by the National Commander.

Copies of the governing instructions and nomination forms are available from Department Headquarters. Nominations should cover the calendar year from January 1-December 31, 2009. Nominees do not have to be veterans or members of The American Legion. The nomination package must include a recommendation from their commanding officer or supervisor.

#### **MIDWINTER CONFERENCE BANQUET KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

The Keynote speaker for the 2010 MidWinter Joint Legion/Auxiliary/SAL Banquet will be The American Legion National Commander Clarence Hill. He was commissioned from the United States Naval Academy in 1972, having earned a Bachelor of Science Degree with a history major.

He served 19 of the next 24 years on sea duty and retired in 1996 as a Captain. His afloat commands included Officer-in-Charge of a PT boat, 1 frigate, 2 destroyers, 2 cruisers, Cruiser-Destroyer Group 12 in Mayport, FL, and the Sixth Fleet in Gaeta, Italy. He commanded the Naval Communications Station United Kingdom in Thurso, Scotland, for three years, and the guided missile frigate USS MCINERNEY (FFG-8) for two years, including combat operations during Operation Desert Storm. Ashore, he earned two Masters Degrees, one from the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, Ca., and the other from the Naval War College in Newport, R. I.

#### **MIDWINTER BANQUET TICKETS**

Tickets for the MidWinter Conference Joint Banquet will be by advanced sale only. No tickets will be available at the event. The joint Banquet will be held Friday, February 12, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. Banquet Dinner will feature Prime Rib plus dessert. The event will be preceded by a no-host cocktail hour commencing at 6:00 p.m.

Tickets are available from the Chamberlain American Legion Post. Tickets are \$30.00 each and can be obtained by sending \$30.00 per ticket requested to Potter American Legion Post 3,

P.O. Box 348, Chamberlain, SD 57325.

#### **HOTELS/MOTELS IN OACOMA**

The Headquarters Hotel for the South Dakota American Legion MidWinter Conference, Feb 12-14, 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 which may be considered by those wishing to attend the MidWinter Conference who do not yet have reservations, would include the following:

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 263, Chamberlain 605-734-0985

#### **LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION SET**

The South Dakota American Legion Department Legislative Committee has set the date for the 2010 SD American Legion Legislative Reception for Tuesday, February 2. The reception will be held at the Pierre American Legion Post 8, located at the south end of Pierre Street. The reception will start at 5:30 p.m. and run until approximately 9:00 p.m.

Legion Family members are encouraged to come to Pierre on that date and visit with their legislators. Please extend a personal invitation to your legislators to attend the reception that evening.

#### **GO-GETTER CERTIFICATION DEADLINE**

All Posts are reminded that the deadline for certifying Go-Getters to qualify for Early Bird Go-Getter status is Wednesday, January 13, 2010. All Go-Getters who are certified to State Headquarters by Wednesday, January 13, 2010 will be entitled to attend the Go-Getters reception and dinner at the MidWinter Conference in Oacoma.

Post Adjutants must certify Go-Getters using GG Form No. 1-2010, Go-Getter Certification Form, which is located between Pages 7 and 8 in the *2009-2010 Post Adjutant's Administrative and Awards Manual*. Go-Getter cards may be picked up at the registration table at the MidWinter Conference in Oacoma.

#### **STATE HEADQUARTERS HOLIDAY HOURS**

South Dakota American Legion State Headquarters will close at 5:00 p.m., Wednesday, December 23, 2009, for Christmas. Headquarters will reopen for business at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, December 28.

State Headquarters will close again at 5:00 p.m., Wednesday, December 30, 2009, for the New Years Holiday and will reopen for business at 8:00 a.m. Monday, January 4, 2010.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR** to The American Legion Family from your State Headquarters Staff.

#### **MEMBERSHIP UPDATE**

2010 membership stand at 20,196 or 82.40% of the Department's 2010 membership goal.

25 Posts have come in at 100% and many are earning the \$10 stimulus award for each new member or reinstated member above their 2009 end of year membership total. The stimulus checks will be paid at the Department Convention in Spearfish.

Commander Martens would like to thank all those who are working hard on membership. Keep up the good work!

