



Up To Now!

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2009 CONVENTION PROCEEDINGS ENCLOSED

Enclosed to all Post Adjutants, Executive Committee, and Administrative Committee is a copy of the 2009 Department Convention Proceedings.

HATS IN THE RING

Coacher-Goetsch Post 18 of Mitchell has endorsed Hugh W. Holmes for the position of State Vice Commander of The American Legion for the area consisting of Districts 2, 5, and 6.

TROOP CONNECTION

Commander Rod Martens recently created a new committee called "Troop Connection". The committee was formed to assist Posts in their efforts to make and maintain connection with troops on active duty.

Each Post is being asked to form a committee consisting of The American Legion Family and determine what the Post should do to support their active duty personnel. Projects such as writing letters, sending care packages, and sending hometown newspapers are just a few ideas of support.

Once a Post committee has been formed, please send the contact person's name to Coordinator Kathi Quinn, 302 N Dakota St, Howard, SD, 57349 or email troopconnection@gmail.com.

MIDWINTER CONFERENCE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

The 2010 South Dakota American Legion MidWinter Conference will be held Friday-Sunday, February 12-14, 2010, at the Cedar Shore Resort in Oacoma. The schedule of events is outlined below.

Friday, February 12

- 12:00 p.m. – Registration Desk Opens – Pre-Function Area
- 1:00 p.m. – Department Executive Committee Meeting – River Run/Wetlands Room
- 6:00 p.m. – No Host Cocktails – Pre-Function Area/Ballroom
- 7:00 p.m. – Joint Legion/Auxiliary/SAL Banquet – Ballroom

Saturday, February 13

- 8:00 a.m. – Registration Desk Opens – Pre-Function Area
- 8:30 a.m. – Joint Opening Session – Hale/Oacoma Room
Presentation of Colors
State Commander Rod Martens,
Auxiliary President Joan Spears,
SAL Detachment Commander Greg Lemieux
- 8:45 a.m. – National Commander Clarence Hill Remarks
- 9:00 a.m. – Auxiliary VA&R Briefing – Sue Christensen
- 9:10 a.m. – Auxiliary Children & Youth – Regina Whipple
- 9:20 a.m. – Craig Price, Supervisor Special Agent DCI,
South Dakota Attorney General Marty Jackley
"Children Exploitation on the Internet"
- 9:45 a.m. – Janell Christensen, Suicide Prevention
(Dept of Veterans Affairs)
- 10:00a.m. – Sara Elton, Director Black Hills Nat'l Cemetery
- 10:30 a.m. – Legion/Auxiliary/SAL to separate meetings
- 10:45 a.m. – BREAKOUT SESSIONS:
Post Service Officer Session, Glass Room
Americanism Session, Howe Room
Legion Riders Session, Missouri Winds Room
Membership Session, Wheeler Room

- 12:00 p.m. – Noon Lunch Break (On Your Own)
- 1:00 p.m. – BREAKOUT SESSIONS:
Adjutants Session, Glass Room
Americanism Session, Howe Room
Children & Youth Session, Missouri Winds
Membership Session, Wheeler Room
- 2:15 p.m. – All Assemble in Convention Hall, Hale/Oacoma Room
- 2:20 p.m. – NEC Paul Evenson Remarks.
- 2:35 p.m. – Alt. NEC Phil Anderson Remarks.
- 2:45 p.m. – Department Legislative Committee Chairman
Gerald Goetzinger
- 3:00 p.m. – 2009 American Legion College Graduates
Byron Callies, Ken Orrock
- 3:15 p.m. – Department Membership Chairman Wayne
Rohde
Membership Report, Membership Awards &
Turn-In
- 3:40 p.m. – Dept. VAVS Committee Chairman Don Smith
VAVS Popcorn Fund Turn-In
- 3:50 p.m. – Forum
- 6:00 p.m. – Go-Getters Reception – Oacoma Community
Center
- 6:30 p.m. – Go-Getters Smorgasbord – Community Center
- 8:00 p.m. – Hospitality Rooms
- Sunday, February 14**
- 8:30 a.m. – Non-Denominational Service, Hale/Oacoma
Room
- 10:30 a.m. – Department Finals American Legion
High School Oratorical Scholarship,
Hale/Oacoma Room

EMPLOYER OF THE DISABLED AWARD

South Dakota American Legion Employment Committee Chairman Gary Warne of Aberdeen has announced that Wal Mart Corporation in Rapid City has been selected as the recipient of the 2010 SD American Legion Employer of the Disabled Award.

American Legion Post 22 of Rapid City submitted the nomination and reports that the mission of Wal Mart Corporation is to provide employment opportunities to any person with disabilities. Any time an individual is interviewed and offered employment, they are given the opportunity to request and obtain special needs accommodations for their work area or situation. The Rapid City Wal Mart facility has worked very cooperatively with the Veterans Administration to make work adjustments for several disabled veterans.

Congratulations to Rapid City Wal Mart Corporation. The employer will be recognized during the 92nd Annual Convention of The American Legion Department of South Dakota in Spearfish in June 2010.

LEGIONNAIRE OF THE YEAR

All American Legion Posts are reminded that now is the time to select your Post Legionnaire of the Year. This is an excellent opportunity to recognize one Legionnaire from within your Post for his/her special efforts, initiative, and performance during the past year.

CONTINUED ON BACK

Forms for nominating your local Post Legionnaire of the Year for District Legionnaire of the Year competition are included in the *2009-2010 Post Adjutant's Administrative and Awards Manual*. Rules require Posts to submit nominations to the District Commander at least 15 days prior to the Spring District Conventions.

District Legionnaires of the Year will be recognized at the Spring District Conventions and at the Annual Department Convention in Spearfish in June 2010. District Legionnaires of the Year will be eligible for competition in the Department Legionnaire of the Year selection process at the Department Convention in Spearfish.

JOURNALISM CITY

Materials for application to participate in the 2010 South Dakota American Legion Boys State Journalism City program will be mailed to all schools in South Dakota this week. Application forms for boys selected to attend the South Dakota American Legion Boys State Journalism City program must be sent to the South Dakota American Legion Boys State Registrar, Gene Schumacher, at 924 N. Main St., Aberdeen, SD 57401.

DEADLINE FOR SPORTS BID

Posts interested in hosting the 2011 sporting events for The American Legion Department of South Dakota have until Tuesday, 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.

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 University campus, Spearfish, Jan. 30, 1:00 p.m.

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 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, I 90 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.

END OF THE YEAR MEMBERSHIP AWARDS

The County Commander in each of the four goal-size groups that has enrolled the highest percentage of assigned membership goal for 2010 by the December 9, 2009 target date will receive an American Legion belt buckle. The winners are as follows: Dennis Bates of Herreid, Campbell County (15-199); Don J. List of Yankton, Yankton County (200-349); Brian Thomas of Gary, Deuel County (350-549); Gary Warne of Aberdeen, Brown County (550-and larger).

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

State Headquarters will close 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

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

2010 membership stands at 20,472 or 83.52% of the 2010 Department membership goal.

The Department membership achievement thus far has resulted in the Department of South Dakota ranking first out 55 Departments in the national membership drive. We still have a ways to go to meet Commander Martens pledge of 93.4% by the American Legion Birthday National Target Date. We need everyone's help in contacting our remaining Legionnaires to renew. Keep up the good work.

