



Up To Now!

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Issued Bi-Weekly from State Headquarters at Watertown, S.D. 57201-0067

Phone (605) 886-3604

No. 3045

February 2, 2011

ENCLOSED IN THIS ISSUE

Enclosed for all Post Commanders to distribute to the Post Historian is a letter and entry form for the one-year Post narrative and/or one year Post Yearbook.

HATS IN THE RING

Richard Ekle of Canton has been endorsed by Bergstrom-Bodeen American Legion Post 128 of Hudson as a candidate for State Vice Commander for Districts 1 & 7 for 2011-2012.

Harlan Tiedeman of Beresford has been endorsed by Beresford Post 72 as a candidate for District One Vice Commander.

DID YOU KNOW?

- P An American Legion Post can not be named after a living person.
- P Currently, there are 106,000 Legion Riders in over 1,000 chapters in every domestic Department and in 3 foreign Departments.
- P Craig Price was appointed by Governor Daugaard to the position of Superintendent of the South Dakota Highway Patrol. Craig is the son on Larry and Rita Price of Redfield.
- P "One man with courage is a majority" is a quote by Thomas Jefferson.

MIDWINTER CONFERENCE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

The 2011 South Dakota American Legion MidWinter Conference will be held Friday-Sunday, February 11-13, 2011, at the Cedar Shore Resort in Oacoma. The schedule of events is outlined below.

Friday, February 11

- 10:00 a.m. – Administrative Committee Meeting
- 12:00 noon –Registration Desk Opens
- 1:00 p.m. – Department Executive Committee Meeting
- 6:00 p.m. – No Host Cocktails
- 7:00 p.m. – Legion/Auxiliary/SAL Banquet

Saturday, February 12

- 8:00 a.m. – Registration Desk Opens
- 8:30 a.m. – Joint Opening Session
- 10:30 a.m. – Legion/Auxiliary/SAL to separate meetings
- 10:45 a.m. – BREAKOUT SESSIONS
- 12:00 p.m. – Noon Lunch Break
- 1:00 p.m. – BREAKOUT SESSIONS:
- 2:15 p.m. – All Assemble in Convention Hall
- 4:00 p.m. – Adjourn Assembly
- 6:00 p.m. – Go-Getters Reception
- 6:30 p.m. – Go-Getters Smorgasbord

Sunday, February 13

- 8:30 a.m. – Non-Denominational Service
- 10:30 a.m. –Department Finals American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship "Constitutional Speech Contest"

END OF YEAR MEMBERSHIP AWARDS

101 Posts, have qualified for the Continuous Goal Achievement Award based on the attainment of advanced membership of at least 90% of the next year's membership goal by the end of the current

year. Congratulations to these 100 Posts for their dedicated and devoted work on membership.

One Post, Lake Preston Post 63, has made advanced membership assignment every year since the award was implemented 63 years ago. A **SPECIAL CONGRATULATIONS** to that Post on this remarkable achievement. Another notable achievement that deserves to be acknowledged is 61 consecutive years by Letcher Post 93.

Framed citations are presented for each five-year increment of continuous achievement; attachments are presented for intermediate years. These awards will be presented during the Spring District Meetings. Those Posts that will be receiving framed citations include: Centerville Post 43 – 5 years, Chancellor Post 283 – 5 years, Two Rivers Post 319 – 5 years, Elkton Post 198 – 5 years, Colman Post 278 – 5 years, Strandburg Post 171 – 5 years, Langford Post 141 – 5 years, Pukwana Post 201 – 15 years, Tabor Post 183 – 30 years, Presho Post 89 – 5 years, Timber Lake Post 83 – 5 years, Warner Post 137 – 5 years, Selby Post 100 – 5 years. All other Posts that qualified, and have previously been awarded a 5-year continuous membership citation will be awarded an attachment to be affixed to the previously awarded 5-year increment citation which they last received.

Two Posts qualified for Certificates of Meritorious Service for having attained All-Time High Membership. Those Posts are Gary Post 109 and Alsen Post 44. Each Post will receive a Certificate of Meritorious Service from the National Commander during the Spring District Meetings. Congratulations to those Posts and their membership teams.

Sixty-Five Posts qualified for Post Honor Ribbons for having attained 2011 membership that exceeded their total 2010 membership by the January 20, 2011, Target Date. Those Posts included District 1 – Colton #206, Dell Rapids #65, Humboldt #62, Davis #176; District 2 – Aurora #230, Brookings #74, Erwin #241, Lake Preston #63, Oldham #158, Nunda #105, Ramona #216, Canova #61, Howard Post #145, Colman #278; District 3 - Willow Lake #113, Astoria #103, Gary #109, Bryant #37, Estelline #184; District 4 – Lily #156, Waubay #129, Langford Post #141, New Effington #180, Rosholt Post #48; District 5 – Hitchcock #84, Virgil #268, Onaka Post #270, Polo Post #299, Doland #69, Tulare #292; District 6 – Plankinton #5, Stickney #26, White Lake #96, Ethan #261, Salem Post #140; District 7 - Avon #150, Scotland #155, Tyndall #2, Alsen Post #44, Vermillion #1, Wakonda #13, Armour #52, Delmont #249, Freeman #248, Parkston #194; District 8 – Fairfax #187, Kennebec-Reliance #179, Winner #169, Witten #167; District 9 - Draper #301, Norris #310; District 10 – Highmore #35, Hoven #159; District 11 - McIntosh #139, Isabel #120, Timber Lake #83, Bison #255; District 12 – Belle Fourche #32, Box Elder #315; District 13 - Hermosa #303, Hill City #160, New Underwood #256, Kyle #265, Porcupine #294; and District 14 – Columbia #58, Herreid Post #170, Hosmer #189, Ipswich #67, Eureka #186.

The District Commander award for attainment of 90 percent or more of assigned membership goal by January 20, 2011, had one winner. Betty "Sam" Vaughn, District 2 Commander, will receive an award for being at 90.11%.

LEGION NEWS AND UP TO NOW ONLINE

The Legion News and Up To Now are online at the South Dakota American Legion website, www.sdlegion.org.

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STATE CHAMPIONSHIP ORATORY CONTEST

The state finals for the South Dakota American Legion Oratorical Scholarship High School Constitutional Speech Contest will be held in conjunction with the 2011 South Dakota American Legion MidWinter Conference on Sunday, February 13, 2011, at the Cedar Shore Resort in Oacoma, SD.

The winner of the State Contest will receive a \$1,000 scholarship. The second place winner will receive a \$500 scholarship, the third place winner will receive a \$300 scholarship, and the fourth and fifth place winners will each receive an additional \$100 scholarship.

The state champion will continue on into the national level competition which will be held in Indianapolis, IN in April. The prizes at the national level include an \$18,000 scholarship for first place, a \$16,000 scholarship for second place and a \$14,000 scholarship for third place. Contestants in the national competition also receive a \$1,500 scholarship for participating in each level of competition leading to the national finals.

The State Finals Contest will commence after the Non-denominational service on Sunday and will feature the following area contest winners who have advanced to the state finals:

- Area 1 (District 1 & 7) – Joe Schartz of Humboldt
- Area 2 (Districts 2, 5 & 6) – Nicholas Kantuck of Brookings
- Area 3 (Districts 3, 4 & 14) – Haley Hardie of Watertown
- Area 4 (Districts 8, 9 & 13) – Cole Shippy of Colome
- Area 5 (Districts 10, 11 & 12) – Nicholas Wright of Gettysburg

TEN TO TRAVEL TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

Ten members of The American Legion Department of South Dakota will travel to Washington, D.C., in late March, to participate in the Sixteenth Annual Washington Conference. This annual conference is the primary opportunity for members of The American Legion, from all 50 States to converge on Capitol Hill, all carrying the same message regarding the Legislative Priorities which The American Legion has compiled that will serve the best interests of our nation's veterans, along with the priorities we believe best serve those interests represented by the other three pillars of The American Legion; Americanism, Children and Youth, and National Security.

Those called to Washington, D.C., this year include PDC Gerald Goetzinger of Martin (Vice Chairman Membership and Post Activities Committee), PDC Larry Price of Redfield (Americanism Commission), PDC Gunner Baatrup of Huron (Convention Commission), PDC Wayne Vetter of Cresbard (Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Committee), PDC Eugene Schumacher of Aberdeen (Employment Committee), Alt NEC Phil Anderson of Piedmont (National Security Commission), and Past National Chaplain Stan Gruneich (Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Committee). Also attending will be Department Commander G.D. "Hoot" Gibson of Sioux Falls and Department Adjutant Denny Brenden of Watertown.

The Washington Conference is scheduled for March 20-23. Attendees will be staying at the Renaissance Washington, D.C. Hotel. Tuesday, March 22 has been designated as Hill Day. Tuesday will commence with an American Legion Legislative Rally at the Hotel in the morning and shortly after lunch, all participants will journey to Capitol Hill to present The American Legion's Legislative Priorities list to their respective Congressional Delegations.

The tenth South Dakota Legionnaire traveling to Washington, D.C., will be Department Service Officer Warren Aas of Watertown. DSO Aas will be participating in the Annual Department Service Officer's School which is also held at the Renaissance Washington, D.C. Hotel. DSO Aas will be arriving in Washington on March 15 and will be departing on March 20, just shortly after the remaining Legionnaires from South Dakota arrive.

FORT MEADE TO RECOGNIZE FOUR CHAPLAINS

The VA Black Hills Health Care System, in partnership with the Sturgis Ministerial Association and The American Legion Post 33,

will hold a Four Chaplains Memorial Service on Sunday, February 13 at 1:30 p.m. at the Believer's Fellowship Church at 180 Old Stone Road in Sturgis, SD.

The Four Chaplains Memorial Service honors four Army Chaplains – Lt George L. Fox, Lt Alexander D. Goode, Lt John P. Washington, and Lt Clark V. Poling – who gave up their life jackets and lives so that younger soldiers could live when the U.S. Dorchester was torpedoed and sunk by a German submarine, February 3, 1943.

FROM PIERRE

The 86th session of the South Dakota Legislature is in session. These are the bills that The American Legion is monitoring along with the bill's current status.

SB 51 - This bill would revise certain provisions relating to a previous appropriation for renovation of the nursing care building on the South Dakota Veterans' Home campus and to declare an emergency. First read in Senate and referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

SB 52 - This bill would authorize the South Dakota Building Authority and the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs to provide for the design, construction, and equipping of the Veterans Home near Hot Springs and to declare an emergency. First read in the Senate and referred to Senate Appropriations Committee.

SB 53 - This bill revises certain provisions relating to the Veterans Commission and to veteran's rights, benefits, and services. This bill redefines a veteran and a war time veteran in South Dakota. The bill received a Do Pass from the Senate State Affairs Committee and received a Do Pass from the Senate Floor. The bill is referred to the House State Affairs Committee. Legion lobbyist testified in support of this bill.

SB 56 - This bill would revise the qualifications of a county veterans' service officer. First read in the Senate and referred to Senate State Affairs Committee.

SB58 - This bill provides tuition benefits to certain National Guard members attending tribal colleges. Read in the Senate and referred from the Senate Education Committee to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

SB69 - This bill would repeal certain provisions relating to county veterans memorials. Read in Senate and referred to Senate Health and Human Services Committee. Passed in Committee on 1-31-2011+*. Legion lobbyist testified in support of this bill.

SB139 - This bill would exempt from state regulation certain foster home care for veterans. First read in Senate and referred to Senate Health and Human Services.

HB1083 - This bill would revise certain state education benefits for veterans. First read in House and referred to House Education Committee.

HB1125 - This bill will increase the amount of certain veterans' bonus payments. First read in House and referred to House State Affairs Committee.

HB 1126 - This bill would revise the salary schedule for veterans' service officers. First read in House and referred to the House State Affairs Committee.

BOYS STATE DECEASED MEMBERS

If anyone knows of any former South Dakota Boys Stater who has passed away this last year, please contact State Headquarters. Call 605-886-3604 or email sdgion@dailypost.com.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Membership stands at 20,435 or 86.10% of the Department's membership goal. The Department needs to achieve 92.45% by March 9, 2011 to qualify for \$2,000 from National Headquarters.

Remember to "JUST ASK".

